



## FASHION STATEMENT

The Bell Ringer examines the state of style on MBA's campus

12-13

## YEAR IN REVIEW

Your guide to the best music, movies, and games of 2012

19-20



# THE BELL RINGER



Montgomery Bell Academy

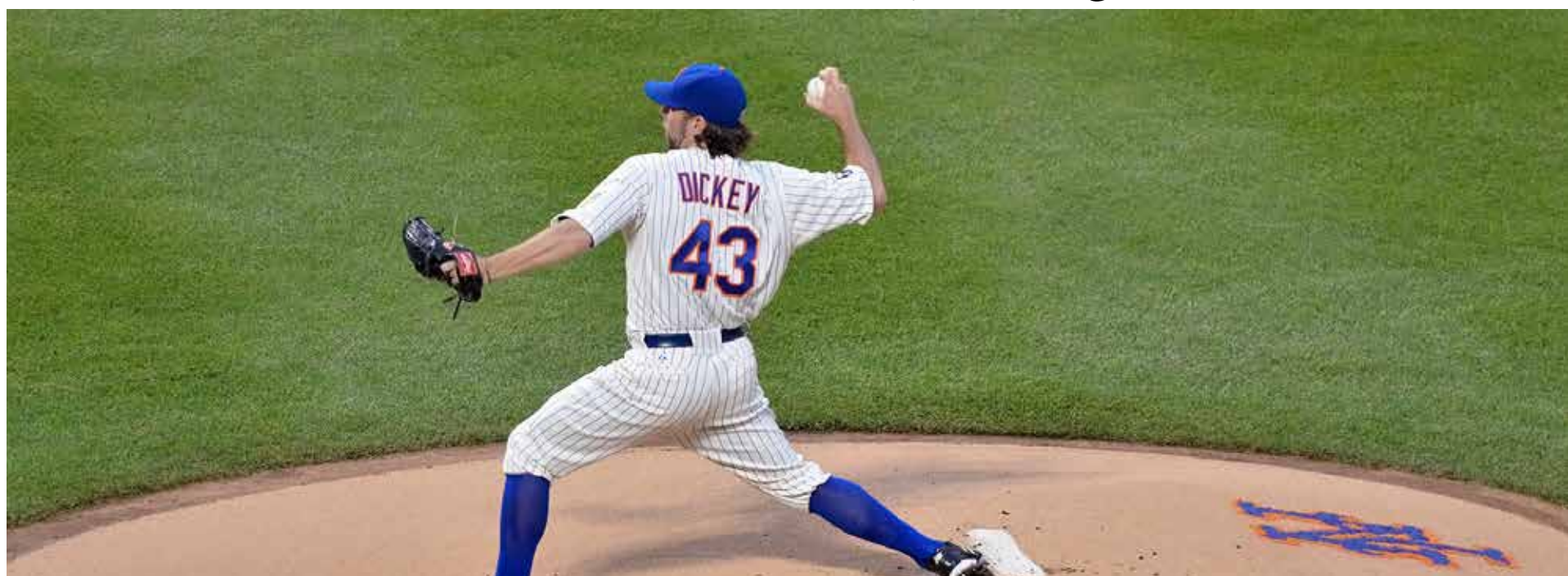
4001 Harding Road Nashville, TN 37205

30 November 2012

Vol. LXIX, No. 3

## R.A. DICKEY-LOUS

Alum takes the Cy Young



**KNUCKLE UP:** Class of 1993 graduate R.A. Dickey's knuckleball renaissance vaulted him to the Cy Young

COURTESY OF AP

**By Davis Lovvorn**  
Asst. Features Editor

On Wednesday, November 14, MBA alumnus and celebrated knuckleballer R.A. Dickey ('93) was awarded the National League Cy Young Award.

The award is considered the most prestigious in baseball. Named after old-time pitcher Cy Young, who won a record 511 wins during his career in the majors, the award is given to the best pitcher in each of the two leagues: the American League and the National League, to which Dickey's Mets belong.

"It just feels good all over," Dickey said on MLB network after winning this prestigious prize.

Perhaps most impressive about this award is the margin by which he earned it. Dickey garnered 27 out of 32 first-place votes, gaining a dominating 209 points. He easily fended off last year's winner Clayton

Kershaw of the LA Dodgers, who received two first-place votes, and Johnny Cueto of the Cincinnati Reds and Gio Gonzalez of the Washington Nationals, who each received one first-place vote.

The class of 1993 knuckleballer finished the season with a record of 20-6, >> **R.A. DICKEY, 14**



**SEEDS OF SUCCESS:** Mr. Chenery (far right) and students display the NTA arboretum plaque

## Campus declared arboretum by NTA

**By Daniel Bishop**  
Staff Writer

The Nashville Tree Association recently declared MBA's campus an arboretum, reflecting a high concentration of biodiversity in an urban setting. The distinction was a recognition of the work of environmental science teacher Mr. Gordon Chenery, who has spent the last several years

recording the specifications of many trees on campus.

Between forty and fifty different species of trees grow on the property, including willow oaks, hackberries, cherry trees, dogwoods and ginkgo trees. Headmaster Gioia reflected on the recognition that MBA has received from the NTA, stating "The recognition shows that

>> **ARBORETUM, 2**

## MBA vandalized, declared "preppy"

**By Wells Hamilton**  
Features Editor

Shock and Awe dominated the campus on the morning of November 1, when unwitting students arrived school expecting a normal Thursday, only to see the most cherished landmark on campus, the press box, had been assaulted viciously by an unknown assailant with poor handwriting and even poorer grammar. The message the assailant had for the MBA community was as clear as cheap spray paint: MBA students are "preppy."

Now what does that even mean? The bluntness of the method the assailant used to deliver his message implies that it was meant to be an insult, yet most students reacted with downturned lips and slight nods

>> **PREPPY, 12**

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MBA players bring home State



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# November brings increased emphasis on veterans



COURTESY OF CAPT. NORTON

FLAG RAISING: Each year students gather on Veterans Day for a flag raising ceremony

## Annual ceremony honors vets

By Thomas Marosz  
Staff Writer

On the morning of November 9, several students, faculty, and others from MBA's community convened in front of the flagpole to honor both the veterans and active service members from MBA and the rest of the nation.

The ceremony, which has become an annual event on campus, began with the raising of the flag, accompanied by a reveille played by senior Aidan McSharry on the trumpet. MBA's choir then concluded the flag raising with the singing of the national anthem. Alumni, parents and former service members Tom Beasley and Sam Bartholomew addressed the crowd.

Captain Will Norton, an Army veteran and currently dean of the high school, says that the military as a whole is "an organization where the mission is important and there is meaning behind what you do. This ceremony gives time to reflect on both the nation's military and people who have sacrificed a lot." Captain Norton also states that the military instills several

values important and beneficial to daily life, such as "leadership, and the ability to take up a large amount of responsibility."

There are a surprising number of faculty members involved in all facets of campus life who have served in the Army, Navy or Air Force, including new faculty member Patrick Simpson.

Tom Beasley's speech recognized veterans, while also discussing our nation's foreign policy as it relates to veterans. With the proximity of Veterans Day to the election, Mr. Beasley noted that "neither of our candidates has served in the military." He explained that the lack of this personal connection with the military affects the president's handling of military operations. "Military service is important to our nation, and it is important for political and business leaders to have a leadership background," stated Captain Norton.

After reflecting on the ceremony, Captain Norton affirmed that everyone who listened to the speech should have left with this message: "The military is a great service, with a fulfilling sense of duty. There is great value in having young men and women serve their country."

## In second year, Wounded Warrior Project expands

*Service project continues to exceed goals*

By Tarun Mallipeddi  
and Sam Weien

Opinions Editor and Business Manager

At MBA, the Wounded Warrior Project has developed into one of the most prolific charity fundraisers in just two years. Last year, the project, spearheaded by the efforts of Miles Curry, managed to raise \$12,000. This year, the project continued to experience immense growth, surpassing last year's amount raised for an organization which has aided over 15,000 veterans.

This year's fundraiser was a collaboration with Harpeth Hall. The Harpeth Hall leaders of the service project, Abby Biesman, Olivia Caldwell, and Asha Collins coordinated with the MBA leaders this year, Curry, Adam Biesman, Collin Caldwell, John Mellow, and Gregory Quesinberry.

The parts of the project that were retained from last year include the highest individual donor competition and the advisory challenge for the Wounded Warrior Kevlar helmet. The advisory with the highest overall total gets to keep the helmet in their room for the year until next year's fundraiser.

The new additions to the project this year included the art sale, the bake sale, Moe's Day, and the Harpeth Hall partnership. The bake sale and art sale took place at MBA and each was a significant addition to the final total. The Moe's day allotted 15% of earnings on October 25 to

the project if they buyer presented a certain coupon.

Finally, a second advisory competition was added this year for the advisory with the highest per capita donations. The winner of this competition this year was Mrs. O'Connell's advisory with over \$1,000, while Mr. Boysen's advisory won the entire advisory competition with over \$2,000. The winners of the individual challenge were Monty Turner and Manny Rogers, both with over \$1,000 contributions.

The final total for this year is about \$13,300, more than a \$1,000 higher than last year's final total. Thus, over just two years, MBA has raised about \$25,000 for this worthy charity. The project leaders expect such growth in future years, and are excited about the project's potential next year.

Miles Curry, the architect of the project here at MBA and currently a junior, hopes the project continues to take place once he has graduated because "the support of the MBA community was tremendous and I am really grateful that it also sees the importance of this cause."

Miles said that this project is very close to his heart because his father is a combat veteran, his grandfather served, and he has other family that served in our nation's military forces. Thus, MBA's dedication to this cause shows its gratitude to the countless men and women who have put their lives in harm's way for the rest of us to live safe and peaceful lives.

## Student Opinion: Donut Sales

By Nolan Spear  
Staff Writer

When a student begins his first year at MBA, one thing that captures his attention is the number of donut sales that take place on the Sloan Quadrangle.

The donut sales are usually put on by a student group to raise money for an organization or as a fundraiser for a service project. Students traditionally order their donuts about a month in advance to ensure they will have plenty of donuts to sell, as a good portion of all club profits come from these sales. It seems every week this semester there has been another group selling donuts to sponsor any number of service projects or class initiatives, and *The Bell Ringer* has begun to wonder: "What do people really think about the donut sales?"

Having examined the data, it is clear that most students enjoy the donut sales and believe that they should occur more often than not, and, despite the general acknowledgement that the sales do not promote a healthy lifestyle, the overwhelming majority of students believe that the general sale of donuts should



continue with some frequency.

Obviously, donut sales are extremely popular. The clear consensus among students is that they should continue. Naturally, though, there are those on campus, students and faculty, who weigh more heavily the negative consequences of frequent donut sales. One faculty member, Ms. Killebrew, voiced such an opinion: "Teenage boys will eat donuts and cookies whenever they are put in front of them, but there are definitely better, healthier options available to sell here at MBA."

Consider that the average glazed Krispy Kreme donut has about 200 calories and that, on average, a student buys about three donuts per sale. That equates to 600 calories from donuts alone that flood the average student's body once a week. The argument can be made, however, that because students participate in after-school sports and activities that require a solid calorie intake, the donuts supply an

additional boost of energy.

Donuts, though, are the not the best option for additional calories. These glazed, fried pieces of dough have copious amounts of sugar that often lead to a "crash" after consumption. There are much better foods available that do not result in a crash. The Health and Nutrition Club, which Ms. Killebrew sponsors, frequently serves healthy alternatives at club meetings.

There are several arguments to limit or promote donut sales with implications on club funding, service fund raisers, student health, and even campus morale. In any case, it seems healthy alternatives to donuts may be a viable option. As Ms. Killebrew said, "We can sell better snacks, and any time is a good time to start." Support them or not, it would appear that donut sales are here to stay.

## Award is testament to conservation

>> ARBORETUM, 1

the school has done a good job of caring for and preserving the campus's trees."

Mr. Chenery recorded the latitude, longitude, circumference, height, crown, genus and species of 112 trees scattered across MBA. He also created a website that highlights several trees. The website has spreadsheets of the trees' data, a film of the trees and pictures. Visitors can even view the trees using Google Earth.

Charles Brindley, a Nashville artist who has painted several trees on campus, has some of his works displayed on the website. He cites the wooded life around campus as a constant source of inspiration.

The new construction around campus has buttressed the local ecosystem by supporting trees, which have been planted around the parking garage, tennis courts and Lowry. They will eventually grow into large trees, rivaling those in front of the Ball and Carter Buildings. As Mr. Gioia acknowledged, the recent recognition of MBA as an arboretum is "an affirmation of MBA's commitment to the conservation of trees."



## New Hall Nearing Completion



PARRISH PRESON/BR

**HOLLOWED HALLS:** Mr. Gioia explains that he envisions this hallway as a main conduit for student transit upon completion

## Gardening Club recovers from construction, plans new projects

By Will Singer and German Martinez  
Staff Writers

With the recent construction of the Lowry building and the parking garage, much of the school's garden space was leveled. However, the MBA garden club, led by Mr. Spiegl, Dr. Carro and seniors J. Carlton Smith and Sam Turner, has decided to rebuild and resume developing green spaces.

This year the club will be growing a wide variety of plants, such as tomatillos, tomatoes, herbs and many different types of flowers. Much of the produce goes to the cafeteria to be used in our lunches, and some of the yield is used in salsas made by Dr. Carro and Mr. Spiegl.

The club has plans to improve the garden this year by building several composters to have a sustainable mulch supply. The wooden structures will provide a repository for plant waste to be used positively rather than being thrown out. The system is composed of at least three stages of compost. One bin holds new waste, another the more decomposed material and a final bin compost that can be used when new mulch is needed.

In the spring, the club plans for bird feeders and benches to be built in the garden space. With improvements to the garden, the club wants to provide a natural area that students can enjoy to escape the more developed feel of the campus and the neighborhood.

## Historical panels to decorate new dining hall

### Local history to color new Wallace

By Aaron Kaplan  
Staff Writer

The new Wallace building will feature historical panels similar to the descriptive glass panels that can be found in Lowry Hall and the Ingram Science Building. These new panels will be focused on local and state history.

As the history department will occupy the new classrooms in the Wallace building, it is only appropriate that there be a historical presence outside the individual classrooms. The historical panels will reside on the side of the building closest to the football field on the main floor outside the dining area.

The new historical panels will focus on events from the pre-Columbian period to the 2010 flood in Nashville. There will be significant emphasis on education, transportation, government and the arts. Among the subject matter featured will be the University of Nashville, the Western Military Institute, Fisk University, Vanderbilt University and the trolley system which once ran along West End Avenue.

Dr. Bailey has been working alongside Mr. Ridley Wills II, author of *Gentleman. Scholar. Athlete.*, in preparing

the timeline of events to be displayed. Visual aids to the descriptions will include pictures from postcards of Mr. Wills' historical postcard collection. While the picture/text combination will be similar to that of the panels in Lowry, the new dining hall panels will be more textually elaborate.

Many interesting and significant events will be featured. For example, the introduction of baseball to Nashville by Union soldiers during the Union occupation of Nashville in the Civil War will be depicted. Notably, Attorney Charles Dickinson, who was killed by Andrew Jackson in a duel in 1806 in Kentucky and whose body was found in Nashville in 2009, will be mentioned. These unique but significant local anecdotes will provide for a captivating historical experience.

Dr. Bailey, explaining the purpose of the panels, says, "These panels will continue to enhance the campus as a museum and a place that heightens our awareness of history all around us." Among the many other attractions to be found in the new dining hall building, the student body can all look forward to these historical panels as a means of becoming more familiar with local and state history and culture.

## Students gear up for int'l poverty symposium in South Africa

By Sam Weien  
Business Manager

This spring Adam Biesman ('14) and Chris Habermann ('13) will travel to the African Leadership Academy in Johannesburg, South Africa for a week with current MBA English teacher and alum Robert Sawyer ('98) to attend the fourth annual Raffles-Winchester International Symposium.

The symposium this year will address the issue of poverty. MBA's envoys will represent the United States in the congregation of schools from nine other countries: Pakistan, India, the Czech Republic, Singapore, China, South Africa, Columbia, Japan, and the United Kingdom.

The program started in 2010, with the first symposium held in Winchester, England, where the students discussed the worldwide financial crisis. The year after, MBA hosted students in Nashville to address global healthcare. Last year, Scott Dalton ('12) and John Mellow ('13) traveled to the Raffles School in Singapore to discuss leadership in the modern era.

The 2013 symposium will focus on the acronym BUILD: Believe, Understand, Invent, Listen, and Deliver. Leading up to the symposium, the students will be writing an essay each month to discuss different subtopics in the broad issue of poverty. In March, the students will assemble at the African Leadership Academy to discuss local poverty, domestic poverty, international poverty, and the many roots of poverty.

Chris Habermann and Adam Biesman are very excited to interact with cultures from all over the world. Whether it is talking to students from South Africa, Japan, India, or any of the other nations represented, they look forward to experiencing international cultures.

Adam Biesman said, "I look forward to meeting teens from all over the world and completely varying cultures, all trying to solve the same problem." Both he and Chris are prepared to see the different ways that societies deal with similar problems.

The two representatives also want to apply their knowledge to Nashville. They have already begun to develop ideas to deal with local poverty. They want to "discover the largest causality of poverty that can be addressed here in Nashville" and then to "develop a project that may benefit the poor here."

When Adam and Chris return from the African Leadership Academy, they will have learned much about the issue of poverty. These two, equipped with new perspectives on poverty, will continue to work to try to fight poverty wherever it may be. The lessons learned in South Africa will be applied throughout the community.





DIRECTING TRAFFIC: Mr. Tate instructs students preparing his classic Hawaiian Surprise

COURTESY OF DR. FULLER

## Club encourages creative writing

By Matt Miccioli  
Staff Writer

Renamed “The Red Poets Society” by the sagacious McKay Proctor, the MBA writers’ group provides an outlet for students interested in pursuing their interest in creative writing. Mr. Moxley, the faculty sponsor, commented, “I enjoy seeing students find passion for writing. [The RPS] serves as a place for the boys to be among a community of like-minded people, feel comfortable sharing their work and receiving feedback for editing, like a safe house for writing.”

With about ten active participants per year for the last fifteen years, the continuing goal of the group is to help drive and guide those most devoted and serious about developing their creative writing talents. Filling the gap left by the rather analytical focus of MBA English classes, generally all members produce a work, whether it is a personal essay, poem, or story, over the course of the year to be proud of. Moreover, by polishing and refining each member’s works, the group paves the way for individuals interested in writing competitions like the Bennington Young Writers Competition, the Scholastic Art Awards and MBA’s very own *Archives*.

Through the English Wilson Grants, which can be applied for in January, Mr. Moxley hopes to see an influx of new ideas and increased student guidance, with more members hopefully following the lead of Jackson Cole, who attended the Duke Creative Writers Workshop. Moxley explained, “Anything new brought back [from the grants] improves the group, especially considering how difficult it is to get a consistent base of writers due to sports.”

The RPS is not limited to students, with Messrs. Davidson, Lester, and Kimball frequently in attendance. The group convenes from 6:00-7:30pm on Tuesdays in Mr. Moxley’s room on a roughly biweekly basis. Extending his invitation, Mr. Moxley commented, “If you love creative writing and would even like to share your work, come down for a like-minded group....There is pizza.”

## Loaves and Fishes a favorite of MBA students

By McLean Hudson  
News Editor

Once a month, a group of poorly trained and highly enthusiastic students comes together to create a meal and serve the hungry. For decades, MBA’s service club has provided this great service to the city of Nashville. “We’re here for them,” says Mr. Paolicchi, one of the faculty sponsors. “We don’t necessarily need a reward or even acknowledgement. Our reward is witnessing the happiness that we bring them.”

Most MBA students are familiar with what is simply called “Soup Kitchen.” From the slideshow recaps in assembly to donation requests throughout the year, Soup Kitchen is a visible example of the school’s emphasis on service. But despite its publicity and popularity, most MBA students have never attended MBA’s longest running service project.

In the new service office in Lowry there hang framed cut outs from *Bell Ringer* write ups of the service club dating back to 1989. One article summarizes the Soup Kitchen project. According to this article, eight to twelve students would meet at nine in the morning on the first Saturday of every month and drive to the Holy Name

Catholic Church, where they might cook a meal of sweet potatoes, corn, meatloaf, and rolls.

Not much has changed in twenty years. Though more students are required to prepare food for the nearly one-hundred and forty attendees that come each month, and the menu has trended towards more elaborate foods, the routine is much the same.

On the first Saturday of every month, volunteers bus over to the same church as twenty years ago. Volunteers prepare food for nearly two hours and then serve the hungry crowd that files in. Many of the regular attendees happily greet the students working the serving line and tell

idea. Before, you’d have lots of people standing around with nothing to do. Now everyone has a job and feels useful.” For example, at the first soup kitchen of the school year, one group chopped vegetables and prepared a crème sauce to top the chicken that was thawed, cut and cooked by another group. A third group kneaded dough for biscuits while two other groups prepared the salad and Mr. Tate’s iconic dessert: Pineapple Surprise.

Most students who begin early in their high school careers continue to come back each month for the next several years. “All I can say is that it’s fun,” said Bradley Long, student leader for Soup Kitchen this year. “When you’re part of a process

that feeds over one-hundred and fifty people, you feel useful, productive, and, at the end, accomplished. And if you stick with it through high school,

you inevitably graduate into a leadership position.”

As every student who has managed to make his way down to the parish knows, Soup Kitchen is a truly humbling experience. The ability to do so much for these people every month and to see how it affects them - that’s all the thanks a person needs.

“When you’re part of a process that feeds over one-hundred and fifty people, you feel useful, productive, and, at the end, accomplished.”

them how they always look forward to the food they prepare.

The project has always been popular among students. Last year, Mr. Paolicchi and Dr. Fuller decided to limit the number of people that could sign up, because so many people would volunteer that many would just stand idly by without a task to perform.

Said regular volunteer William Yang, “The limit on people was a great



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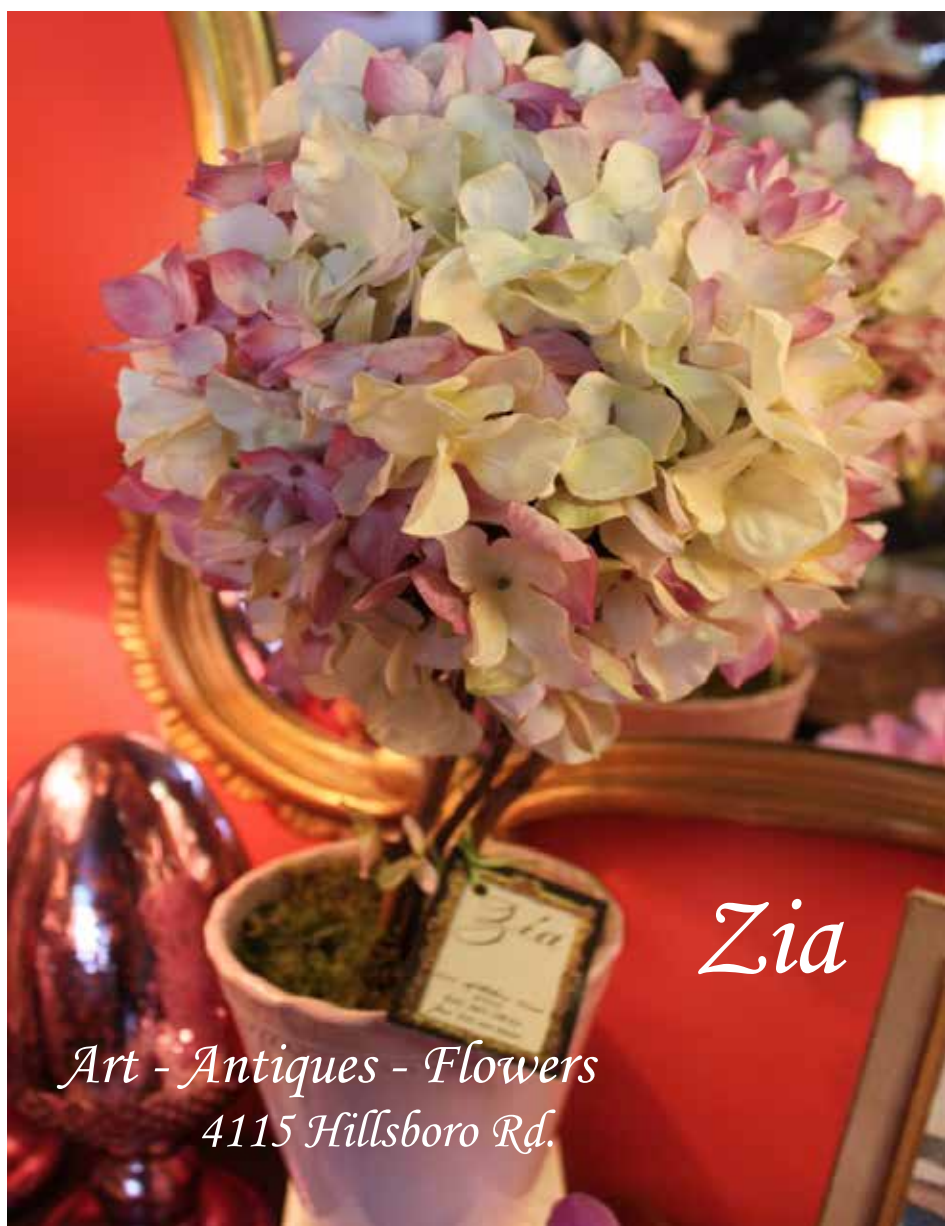


## Hanging in the rafters



**RAISING THE ROOF:** Mr. Gioia gets up close and personal with the vaulting in the new dining hall ... thirty feet off the ground

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Letters to the Editor are encouraged, and can be delivered to the Bell Ringer office in the Lowry Building, the Faculty Advisors or the Editors, or sent to [bellringer@montgomerybell.edu](mailto:bellringer@montgomerybell.edu) (simply type 'Bell Ringer' into the school email). These letters must be signed; The Bell Ringer neither publishes anonymous submissions of opinions or articles nor permits individuals to remain unidentified unless protected by other rules of confidentiality at MBA. Letters will be edited for length and clarity.

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## Modernization should not always mean forgetting the real thing

In the past few issues, many of the opinions articles have been about how MBA is moving forward technologically. However, we cannot forget the traditions that this school has been founded upon.

The technological advancements that the school is currently making are great for modernizing. The iPads in the library and the *Bell Ringer* moving to the web are some of the more positive moves. Some of these changes, such as the rumored keycards needed to enter the new dining hall, have practical security purposes also or help the school save energy, like the geothermal wells heating Lowry and the new dining hall.

Even though all these changes are great for the school, they also put less emphasis on actual hard copies of any type of literature. Ever since the rise of the Internet in the mid-1990s, books have become increasingly obsolete. While people used to read nothing but tangible books, the rise of E-readers and their smartphone kin have made the book and the newspaper a dying animal.

Publishing companies and local newspapers are disappearing and selling out at an alarming rate, citing the rise of the internet as a main cause. While this

modernization is undeniably a net benefit to our society, some things about the analog world should remain. No E-reader can match the sense of detachment a book can bring. *Walden* could never have been written on an iPad to be read on a Kindle. Some books need to be in hardcopy form to have their full effect.

Additionally, now that there are multiple summaries of books on the Internet, we have lost the sense of accomplishment and enjoyment that comes with reading a book from physical cover to cover. Many students have now replaced the reading of a book with just a hurried skimming of the summaries of certain books that they are assigned to read simply because they feel it takes too long to read a book.

The true challenge of the twenty-first century on the Hill will not be modernization – that will be pushed by a social tide – but maintaining the traditions that are seemingly obsolete but beneficial. No matter how digital our reality becomes, no computer will ever match the creative friction of putting a pen to paper or the satisfaction of feeling the parched paper between fingers while flipping to the last page of a dense volume.

## Letters to the Editor

### Finding a voice in the English curriculum

I want to recognize first and foremost that I appreciate everything that the English department does to prepare us for the world. English has been my favorite class at MBA and I think the English department accomplishes its task again and again. Lord knows every poorly trimmed head in this place practically thinks in terms of thesis statements and MLA-formatted bibliographies. I - like most upperclassmen - have spent my fair share of time pounding away trying to find the right topic sentences, but at the end of the day, I come away from theme after theme feeling empty. I can write far better than I could before I came here, but if I am being honest, I don't know that we are going about it the right way. I think that critical writing is an important part of any liberal arts education, but like a great man once sang, "After you've been having steak a long time, beans, beans taste fine." The writing assignments where I learn the most about who I am as a writer and what I truly enjoy about writing are the ones that lack five paragraphs of strong analysis.

I don't want to ask the English department - or even the school as a whole - to change what it is undeniably good at. The awe people express at our analytical talents is both real and positive. Writing, however, is a complicated beast. Algebra can be taught as a process. Balancing chemical equations can be taught as a process. Writing is more of a journey to find a voice than anything. Everything else falls in line as long as the words flow in a confident, natural voice. The English department should understand that not every boy will find his voice in relaying the significance of Lady Macbeth's soliloquy in Act V Scene I. Some boys will find their voice as sportswriters and some will be natural storytellers. In the end, the critical writing process is not always the best means to its end. The best writers have voices that make their writing as simple as talking - an innate extension of the self. I would like to see MBA students get the opportunity to speak for themselves a little more often.

-Samuel Clemens



Do you like to write, take photos or work on graphic design?

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Contact McKay Proctor, John Mellow or George Swenson if you are interested



## Juniors should probably take care of that whole “SAT” thing

By Wells Hamilton  
and Ben Barton  
*College Bound?*

This year, juniors really seem to be taking a great interest in their studies, both inside and outside of the classroom. **Wesley Jenkins**, using his superior understanding of both calculus and physics, was successfully able to get his “torque” on for a solid hour during the Homecoming dance. Unfortunately, **Houston Morris’s** calculations just couldn’t keep up. After learning about economics and global industry in History, **Steve Johnson** decided to open his own ticket selling business, SpudgeHub.com. (But seriously, if you want to use that name you have to pay us.) Steve has made it a point that his operation will exist outside of the MBA Business Club, run by future fascist capitalist fat-cat **Ben Barton**. After learning about the English Enlightenment and the Age of Reason in modern European history, many students decided to apply reason to things that they don’t quite understand. For example, using deductive reasoning, students reasoned that, because **Luke Cochran** misses a lot of school, he must be pregnant (I mean, there is just no other explanation). In the area of Life Sciences, **Coleman Sorenson** has learned by trial and error the pros and cons of self-diagnosing ailments. However, some students seem not to be committing themselves to their studies as much as they should. **Nick Trogden** seems to be having a horrible time calculating percent differences, as well as a mediocre performance in the field of computer science.

Junior civil servants took to Murfreesboro to revolutionize imaginary



**AGONY OF DEFEAT:** Davis learns a lesson in humility from his pal Rem

diplomacy by participating in model UN. Ambassador **Chip Evans** avidly voiced his discontent with the lack of diversity amongst resolutions, saying quote, “Typical Tennessee, all the resolutions sound the same.” On the other hand, political mastermind and coffee aficionado **Pat Sanders** engineered one of the only resolutions to get past the first round. His secret? Coffee.

In other academic news, many juniors seemed to have fun discussing the PSAT every day for three weeks before the actual test. **Clark Hooks** had an interesting strategy approaching the test, which was to get every other junior to freak about the PSAT as much as he was, thus lowering the curve. To do this, he planted “Fear Gas” in all of the vents on the day of the te-(wait, we already did this last issue?) never mind. **Adam Biesman** strategically calculated every possible math question that could appear on the PSAT over a period of three months, only to find out on the day of the



**SKYFALLEN:** The Juniors like it shaken, not stirred.

test that there is also a Critical Reading and a Writing Skills section of the test. On the other hand, **Tarun Mallepeddi** was seen stumbling into the testing room five minutes into the test with only an abacus and a packet of 0.7 pencil lead, a slight improvement from the equipment he used last year: a crayon and a half-solved rubix cube. In other news, **Tristan Chari** appeared in the *City Paper* because of something he did in math class, thereby letting Coach Deutsch read about him in the paper.

On the hill, fall sports are coming to a close. (Now it’s your turn! Write in your own **Grey Reames** joke in the space provided! Now with hastags!)

#

#

Send your jokes via email to #BenBarton and #WellsHamilton

## Sophomores working away on their reasearch papers

By Owen Powell  
*Staff Ed, Andrew and John’s Brother*

Thanksgiving: the opportunity to appreciate that we have almost a week off to frantically ‘read’ our first book of that massive book report. Most people’s plans of reading have slowly given way to TV and dolphins. Nevertheless, cramming will be done Sunday so that none of us fall behind. It seems like there’s been a long period of time between the last two newspapers but the stories of our class stayed the same. We, as a class, are probably no longer the least impressive class at the school. Guess who is? Seems pretty obvious, freshmen.

NEWS THAT WE ALL KNOW ALREADY: **Austin Rolfe** successfully had 3 interceptions on the last play of 3 consecutive games. He also managed to get about 70 “likes” on photos of such accomplishments. **Tobi Kehinde** got into it with a frosh during Bowling Practice. Punches were thrown. Tobi has gone through a couple strands. **Luke Bullock** is still nothing but a pepperoni pizza, but at least he’s got jokes (Austin Rolfe). **Parks Ball**, **Wren McFadden**, and I are all embarking on furniture building. **Steve Wood** is in my 6<sup>th</sup> period math class, which is awesome. I asked **Luke Kinman** if he had done anything stupid, and he responded, “It’s only 2<sup>nd</sup> period.” Guess he hadn’t gone to math yet. **Chad Mitchell** has been working really hard both athletically and

academically. **Nate Smith** is gone from the school; the school has been greatly wounded by this. **Jay Thomas** is only level 55 on the new COD so he hasn’t been gaming that hard. He’s spending most of his break on the Xbox to make sure he doesn’t lose his star status as a gamer. **Big Hen For the Win**, AKA, **Harry**, aka **Henry Rogers**, is NOT TAKING GOOD NEWWTS. **Clay Andrene**, aka Adrian, is fearing the wrath of Mags. **William Richardson** is STILL dating that girl. Obviously his friends have failed him. **Big Bad Joe** is still doing his own thing, much love and respect.

As many of us in the class of 2015 got to know the recent exchange students such as **Gianluca Truda**, **Campbell Green**, and **Richard Freud**, let’s reflect on the blessings they brought to MBA. Campbell was a good guy. Richard was a really good guy. Two solid guys right there. Gianluca’s presence was felt as well.

**Will “GET ‘EM WILL” Pearson** thoroughly enjoyed the play. **Andrew Porter** is probably the only person that gets that joke. THE DIRTY DOZEN! Surely more than a dirty dozen by now. Congratulations to **George Hunt** for getting 160 favorites on twitter in only 2 tweets. He is quite appealing. He also got a shout from the real **Juicy J**. #Respect.

Some sophomores played some football. **Harrison Lien** was probably the star of all them. He was by far the 4<sup>th</sup> best Scout team LB on the team. Probably 2<sup>nd</sup>



**STUDS:** Sophomores work out too, bro.

best Scout team FB also. He’s got some speed. Tusie, scored more touchdowns than **Michael Lacey** showing yet again that whoever has the more TD’s is the better player. **Austin Rolfe** is probably just gonna quit trying to play. I’m embarrassed for him. **Cole Euverard** has been struttin’ like his daddy. Shoutout to **Churchwell**.

BREAKING NEWS: **Porter** just informed me that he loves Biggie. “Dude Biggie, I wanna go see biggie man.” The late great **Biggie Smalls** has really influenced Andrew Porter in his musical career. Porter is actually a baller and probably will be an eight sport athlete his senior year. Football, Basketball, Wrestling, Crew, Track, Soccer, Riflery, and Cross Country. He will probably win 8 state championships. Roll Red, and always, chew Big Red gum.

## Freshmen start asking dates for next year’s Homecoming

By Werner Bradshaw  
*Staff Frosh*

While many freshmen have finally figured out the ins and outs of high school, some just can’t seem to get with the program. (Oh and by the way, **Peter Briggs** does not go to MBA anymore, so if you are wondering why he is listed in your classes but has not shown up, there’s your answer.)

**Brandon Bennett** still really doesn’t know when fourth period starts, as he is at least five minutes late to class every day. Ironically, he seems to arrive to lunch on time pretty consistently. Maybe it is because his 3<sup>rd</sup> period teacher lets him out late, but he probably just likes to take an extra period of reflection between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> period.

Speaking of **Brandon**, doesn’t he have another girlfriend? And on the topic of relationships, didn’t **Taylor Asher** have a devastating breakup recently? I think so...

In other news, **Brodie Poe** let me know that it is deer season. This of course means that **Jack Malone** will be enjoying a “man’s paradise” with his home dawg **Will Norton** (yes there is a freshman named Will Norton). As you all know, **Jack** hunts on the reg. **Jack** also plays varsity hockey. In case you were wondering.

**Sam Smith**, **Conner Gray**, and **Winston Hewitt** all look really good in pictures. They are collectively referred to as **The Trio**. They are “chill,” according to **Conner’s** best friend.

Just a quick injury update on **Jack Malone**: his abdominal wall injury rapidly healed, as expected, the first day of hockey season. Some question that the injury never actually happened (**Glenn Coleman**), but those “haters” are silenced by the fact that **Jack** is much more susceptible to injury, as evidenced by his history of recent injuries: in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, **Jack** missed the entire football season with an obscure injury to his MCL; in 7<sup>th</sup> grade he kind of just sat out; in 8<sup>th</sup> grade he had a concussion that, ironically, lasted for the exact same period of time as his abdominal wall injury did this year (from 5 minutes in to spring practice ’till the start of hockey season).

Rowing studs **Daniel Bishop**, **Neil Richardson**, **Alec Whitson**, **Sam Galanter**, **Emaun Irani**, and **Davis Voecks**, among others, had a pretty stellar rowing season. **Daniel** told me, “I like going to regattas every weekend.”

From what I have heard **Alec Vest**, **Robert Deadman**, **Jordan Rossomething**, **Nolan Spear**, and many others had a great time in Cross-Country. **Adam Young** and **Wes Richardson** tell me that their debate careers are treating them very well.

The wrestling team will be very pleased to put **John Kelly**, **Mark Floyd**, **Stephen Richey**, **Harold Turks**, **Alex Hilburn**, and many others on the roster this year. I am sad to report, though, that **Taylor “Muscles” Asher** won’t be wrestling this year.

Well, that is all that the freshmen have really done. Just a reminder, if you ever have any questions about literally anything, just ask my boy **Yavin Alwis**.



# Seniors voted, did Mr. Hamrick proud. You didn't.

By MacDaddy H  
Staff Church ball enthusiast

It's almost December here on the Hill (and other places too, I guess). That means the quarter's coming to a close, that exams are upon us, and that it's time to start not studying. Most importantly, though, that means church ball.

The season will kick off in a couple of weeks, with the FPC senior team, despite the traitorous defection of **Clint "Commander" Smith**, predicted to bring home the title. Led by **Conner Griffin** (a.k.a. the honey badger), First Pres. will have to make some changes to meet all the lofty expectations Joe Biddle has expressed, starting with breaking .500. Lots of other teams featuring MBA studs look to get in the mix, though. **Wesley Nealy** just hopes his team doesn't forfeit every game.

As you know, the football team's season came to an unfortunate close with a loss to the #1 team in Tennessee, Corn Elder. I speak on behalf of all of Rack City when I say that it was a pleasure watching you football players this year. From Kingsbury and Trinity to the bitter, cold end, it was awesome watching the seniors lead the team all season long. #Blessed.

By sheer volume of responses, I must give one last shout out to Rack City. Cheering and chanting and storming stadiums with everyone has been an incredible experience. It makes me proud that the racks on racks on racks of National Merit Scholars we have all show such enthusiasm for athletics.

But fret not, Big Red Nation, for basketball season is already under way. Look for **Conner Griffin**, sans megaphone,

to lead us once again. Though we won't be allowed to bring the air horns or vuvuzelas (would fire extinguishers be against the rules?), we should have no problem getting up for basketball. I don't want to get the hype started too early but, uh...Ensworth. January 11. Mark your calendars.

Anyway, let's discuss the stuff that really matters.

**Barry Goldsmith** managed to stay on his grind throughout the first semester, and **Sal Neglia** doesn't do anything significant. **Robert Papel** and **Mattison Asher** disagree on the age, but apparently some bumps resulted from the visit. **Mathew McCall** made it to school for a surprising number of days following the many releases of major video games this fall.

**Nathan Fouts**, who I'm told kicks butt, is neighbors with **Mr. Webb**. **Ryan Potter** has been caught meat gazing on several occasions, and **Clint Smith** is sensitive to any talk about church ball or his multiple sports teams. **Will McFadden** ran the Boulevard Bolt on Thanksgiving, but he was just beaten out by **Wilson Johnson** at the finish line.

**Nick Green** applied to some places for college, and I'm told **Alan Liang** tried really hard on his essays. **Jack Bond** met up with the Harry Potter girl (as described by Mr. Papel) and **Patrick Moody** has decided to take his talents to the rowing team. Speaking of crew, **Sam Turner's** brother is rowing. Apparently that's significant.

**Lucas Fortune's** years of not participating in any class whatsoever has paid off with his acceptance into UT and UGA. Be sure to pat him on the back when you see him. He's not the only one getting



**PUNTAGE!:** Coach Smith decides to punt against some guys in orange and black



**WILDBOYZ:** Biodiversity preservation never looked so menacing. Right Connuh & Gonnuh? some good news from colleges these days. Lots of seniors have already gotten into their top choices. Knock on wood that it will continue.

**Mattison Asher** had a pretty sweet trade in fantasy a few weeks ago, and **Jack Benton's** algebra has smelled pretty OK recently. **Brooks Best** just can't help himself with the shirtless pics, and **Adam Bowman** has not won anything for some time. **Sam Waitt** likes to talk about soup.

**Gray Bryant** took some cute pics with the fam at Percy Warner park over the break. **Landon Bullock** has struggled to explain the dimensions of his condo, so he's currently trying to track down the architectural plans. **Davidson White** awaits the final verdict eagerly.

**Galen Bullington** is not a big fan of Google Drive, and **Will Campbell** looked as emotional as ever when he was inducted into Totomoi. **Hunter Crabtree** and **Chris Hooks** write impossibly fast on English tests. **Chris Duffey** made some big plays in the annual pre-Thanksgiving football game, but **Jack Rhodes** was blanked by the lock down coverage.

**Sam Edwards** has apparently decided to start coming to FPC for Sunday school. **Andrew Einstman** got edged out by **Jake Macey** in 36. **Ryan Flack** totally sneaked a pop tart in government. **Mitch Flautt** sneaks pop tarts whenever he wants.

**John Garrett** and **John Tully** are getting after it in wrestling. **Andrew Graham** finally paid up the original sum, but still owes me a dollar. **Conner Griffin** took one/lost two for the team at the Ensworth game. **Nick Green** stayed awake through a full government class one day. I witnessed it.

**Cade Hooper** still smokes people in football when he wears Sperrys, and **Andrew Karpos** still refuses to show people his grades. **Lucas Littlejohn** and I, at first a



**ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS:** Gonner took one too many vuvuzelas to the face



**DANG FURM:** Furman took some style tips from Jeff apparently. Good look, Furm!

little confused, have grown to love our new coach. **Bradley Long** is looking to break the record for least practices attended.

**Henry Lynch** is getting all that metal taken out soon, marking the end of his guilt trip over **Jake Simons**. Snake's older brother, along with **Sam Turner** and **Patrick Moody**, built something. **John Mellow** runs the ship, and **Robby Mills** is thoroughly enjoying this unit in anatomy.

**Jack Emerson** was brutally assaulted in the world's first peppermint-patty-centric hit-and-run. It gave his name-mates **Whit Emerson** and **Jack Benton** the heeby-jeebies

I saw **Nick Peterson** the other day, which only goes to show that he may be losing his ninja powers. **Bevan Petrikin** thinks the administration should learn how to spell his name, and **Michael Piana** saw me driving. **Parrish Preston's** plot to have the play moved up so he could go to the game succeeded.

**"Pig" Rieke** and **Tate "Nate" Ramsden** jam to 101.1 the beat, but **Sam** does not approve. **Marcus Riley** keeps wearing that thing that can't decide if it's a sweater or a jacket or a vest. **George "I don't do shirts" Swenson** out-benched **Furman Haynes**, but more importantly **Jonathan Siktberg** might swim for Harvard. **Hunter Tidwell's** truck is bumpin.

**Kevin Wang** is one of the most wonderful people in the world and I love him. He's extraordinary and there's no stereotype I can apply to him. **Davidson White** is too hype. Sometimes I think he's almost too hype. You know what I mean?

We're almost half way done, boys. Can you believe it? There's so much stuff I haven't gotten to do...I haven't even caught a squirrel yet. Here's to the next six months, gentlemen. Time keeps flying, and next thing you know, we'll be lighting up on the lawn. Go seniors. Boo that ref.

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# MBA STUDENTS INVEST IN THEIR FUTURE

By Eric Anderson  
Staff Writer

Parents and teachers always encourage kids to invest in their future. While students at MBA invest in education, some find other ways to develop their futures. Three of these students, seniors Tate Ramsden, Mattison Asher, and Jake Macey, all invest part of their time in the ever-fluctuating stock market. The three investors, no matter the field, can agree that the stock market “adds an element of risk” and provides a game of “gambling” in many ways. Although these students understand that the world of investing is an uncertain business, they know how and when to invest their time and money.

Jake mainly invests in the silver market due to a passion for coin collecting that he developed at an early age. He enjoyed silver and precious metals “since he had fingers” and decided to pursue investments in this field. Although Jake sometimes invests in gold, he stated, “I mainly deal with silver because it is much cheaper” so that if an investment fails, the loss of money will not be detrimental. He explained the process of investing in silver by starting with hours of research throughout the week on a website called kitco.com. This source provides up-to-the-minute values of one ounce of silver. Jake explained that following trends and patterns in the fluctuating price of silver determines when he invests and when he backs out. When the price of silver is low, while he knows that it might go up in the near future, Jake will buy silver at a low cost and then resell it at a higher exchange rate. He says, “The price will increase by three or four times the amount that I bought it at, and sometimes even higher.” Because of his passion for this type of investing and his success in it, Jake thinks that he will



**FOLLOW THE MONEY :** MBA Student investment has seen a significant uptick in recent years, with seniors Mattison Asher, Tate Ramsden and Jake Macey leading the way with their own personal twists

continue to invest beyond high school and college even if he decides to pursue another job.

Tate invests in long term stocks, which he said have “low risks” compared to some types of investments. He developed a curiosity in the stock market because “stocks provide an opportunity to apply some math to real-life situations.” Once Tate decided to invest in the stock market, he took a wise approach for starting out the first time. Tate said, “Rather than blindly investing right off the bat, I did some research and created a fake portfolio.” After watching the success and failures of this fake account, he began to invest in small amounts of money. Tate decided to pursue stocks in the hectic New York Stock Exchange, where a specialist broker holds auctions to bring in buyers and sellers of a particular stock. He stated that this type of investing becomes satisfying when the hours of research pay off with successful results. However, Tate mentioned, “With the election of Obama, the stock market has really taken a hit,” making investments even more difficult.

Like the other two investors, Tate also wants to continue investing by explaining, “It is really a hobby of mine to check the market every day and see how my portfolio is doing.”

Mattison invests in what he calls the “heart-pounding thrill” of short term investments. He discovered his clever ability to make money at summer camps by bringing food from home and then reselling it at high prices to the other kids. He decided to take his skills a little bit further by investing his money in stocks, in which he said “the process is relatively similar to what I did at summer camps.” Mattison found his greatest success with investing in lithium. He explained, “I saw incredible commercial hype for lithium, and I knew that I had to get in on it. . . . Lithium’s value kept rising exponentially.” Mattison made the right decision as he made a 250% increase in his investments in lithium over the course of several weeks. “Once I saw that its value started to drop off,” Mattison said, “I backed out.” However, he remarked that short term investments require a great

deal of research simply because the stock market changes so often. Although investing consumes much of his time after school and on the weekends, he explained, “I definitely want to continue in investing later on.”

In addition to their thoughts about investments, each senior remarked on the importance of taking AP Economics, a class available next year for students. Mattison said AP Economics will hopefully prepare students to invest wisely and find a passion for investing. Tate added that taking this course would give students the opportunity to get a head start on any economic classes that they want to take in college. Jake mentioned that taking AP Economics will certainly train anyone to become a wise investor whether as a full-time job or simply making money on the side. Lastly, all three investors stressed the importance of hard work and research. Without this important step, no investor will make a significant profit, according to these investors. They all believe that investing becomes satisfying when the hours of research pay off with successful results.

## History by the book

Isaac Ball in Ridley Wills’ *Gentleman, Scholar, Athlete*.

By Aaron Kaplan  
Staff Writer

In 1911, MBA appointed its first “headmaster.” While other heads of school had been called “principals,” Isaac Ball’s appointment as headmaster marked the beginning of a long and successful line of headmasters to follow. In Ridley Wills II’s *Gentleman, Scholar, Athlete*, Wills describes the beginning of Ball’s career at MBA, and the information from the following column is credited to Wills’ book.

Professor Samuel M.D. Clark announced that he would retire from the position of principal at the end of the 1910-1911 school year. Professor Clark was a “bearded Confederate veteran [who] ran the school with military discipline.” Clark served as principal of MBA from 1886-1911, and experienced troubling health problems during his last year teaching at MBA (1911).

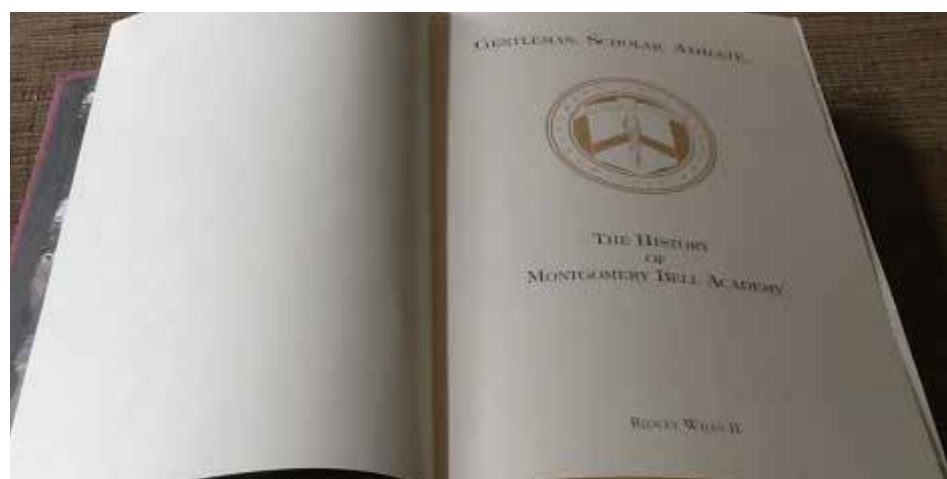
Isaac Ball had a prominent southern background. He was born to “one of South Carolina’s most prominent families.” He attended Sewanee Military Academy and the University of the South. He earned an M.A. degree in 1881.

Ball was an educator in Columbia, Tennessee at the Athenaeum, an all-girls school, where he met his wife. After moving with his wife to Dallas, he and a colleague founded St. Matthew’s Grammar School. Ball’s teaching career continued in Shreveport, Louisiana.

Isaac Ball was 40 years old and a Greek and Latin professor at Sewanee Military Academy, his alma mater, when he was sought after by the Headmaster Search Committee looking to replace Clark. Ball was well-liked at SMA, and those from SMA who recommended him for the headmaster job at MBA were saddened at his potential departure.

Ball was offered the job at MBA and moved to Nashville in July of 1911. Dedicated to his new job and the potential for success, Ball visited prominent boys’ schools outside of Nashville to get ideas for his future work at MBA. One such idea was a student leadership group which consisted of representatives from each high school class.

Early hirings in Ball’s tenure as headmaster included Willis Stewart and Bob Blake as athletics coaches and teachers. At this time in the school’s



**BALL SO HARD :** Mr. Wills’ book describes Isaac Ball’s tenure as headmaster and the changes he made

AARON KAPLAN/BR

history, one person managed/coached all the sports teams. Ball also hired Herbert Jones and Edmund Ewing to teach French and classics and English, respectively. It is evident that the faculty remained small, with each faculty member responsible for a fairly broad area of the curriculum.

In the beginning of Ball’s tenure at MBA, the “downtown” location of MBA’s campus was becoming increasingly inconvenient. West End Avenue and Harding Road had become popular

locations for prominent families due to the presence of Vanderbilt, Centennial Park, and the Nashville Gold and Country Club. A relocation committee was appointed in December of 1912.

1911 marked the beginning of Isaac Ball’s career at MBA, which would last until 1942. Throughout his many years at MBA, Ball distinguished himself as a successful leader of the school, as evident by the naming of the Isaac Ball Memorial Hall at the heart of MBA’s current campus.

*GENTLEMAN, SCHOLAR, ATHLETE* IS AVAILABLE  
IN THE LIBRARY



## What the “Preppy” Allegation means

>> FROM PREPPY, 1

to signify that yes, yes indeed we are. But to what extent? What even is preppy? Are you preppy? *The Bell Ringer* investigated at the only source of preppyitude that we can trust: vineyardvines.com. There we were greeted by endless pages of merchandise models that genuinely resembled MBA's senior photos. That's strike one against the Big Red. Secondly, we crunched some numbers. If an MBA student outfits himself in all brand named apparel from brands of established preppitude (i.e. Polo, Vineyard Vines, Sperrys), he has a good shot at walking around with five hundred dollars' worth of clothing on his back. This price tag is truly a benchmark for any young gentleman with preppy ambitions. By this deduction, we can deduce that the criminal was obviously a resentful hipster, and perhaps someone who frequents the finer eateries of “East Nasty.”

When speaking about preppy and MBA, it's impossible not to mention esteemed alum Scott Dalton, the man who many believe sparked the Colored Pants Revolution for the Rebellious Bourgeois Proletariat. Scott's style was the epitome of a culture forged from the ideal of a modern Southern gentleman; so much so, in fact, that he joined in a company called “The Southern Gentleman,” in a move to shift away from Northern preppyness into a more sweet-tea-flavored brand of preppitude. Could the vandalism be a backlash to the success of this company and its CC(BR)O? We don't negate the possibility, but who could hate Scott?

Let's get back to the facts. The events transpired after Hallows Eve on the day before the Father Ryan vs. MBA football game. Immediately the Irish fell under suspicion. However, rumors circulated that Father Ryan's campus was also vandalized. Some say this fact negates their involvement, while others are not so convinced. Could vandalizing their own campus be a clever ploy to throw us off their trail? *The Bell Ringer* checked into this so-called “Father Ryan High School,” and discovered through the trustworthy resources of urbandictionary.com that Father Ryan does not have the capacity to orchestrate such a dastardly plot.

Then who? Who sparked the madness? *The Bell Ringer* is afraid that the whodunit caper will never be solved. This is what we do know. The assailant's weaknesses are locked gates, grammar, and political correctness. If you think you see him, do not panic. Wish him a “Happy Holidays” and use the word “whom” in its correct context as you slowly back towards the nearest lockable gate.

The damage will be repaired and hopefully we can all move on with our lives, drowning our lamentations in the soft silk of Brooks Brothers brand handkerchiefs.



WHALE OF A PRICE: These bros know the price of being a frat star.

## Do the math: Vineyard Vines

Every issue, our resident Coach Pythagoras Will McFadden will break down the statistics of the Hill. This month, he takes on the Frat staple Vineyard Vines

By Will McFadden  
Staff Math Wiz

We all know that guy who wears just about all Vineyard Vines all the time. Even though “his girlfriend gave it to him” or “his mom likes to shop for him,” it is intriguing just how much Vineyard Vines gear one man can wear at a time. How much, though, is feasibly possible?

I once heard, “You pay about \$10 for the shirt and another \$100 for the whale logo.” At the time, I thought this statement was an exaggeration, but careful research

has led me to believe otherwise. Is Vineyard Vines really that expensive? How much Vineyard Vines can a single MBA frat star don, and how much would it cost? Let's do the math.

From head to toe:

Whale Visor: \$20.00  
Croakies: \$8.00  
“Angler Whale” Shirt: \$98.50  
“Albacore” Bowtie: \$45.00  
“Mountain Weekend” Vest: \$125.00  
“Embroidered Club” Shorts: \$98.50  
“Canvas Patchwork” Belt: \$49.50  
Lobster Boxers: \$24.50  
Leather Flip Flops: \$49.50  
(Seeing this guy : priceless)

**9 total items**

All prices come directly from www.vineyardvines.com and are *not* exaggerated.

I'm counting a total of **9** different Vineyard Vines accessories that can be worn reasonably at one time.

If we add up the prices of these 9, we get:  $20+8+98.5+45+125+98.5+49.5+24.5+49.5 =$  **\$518.50 of Vineyard Vines** on a single human being.

**\$518.50 possible for one human being**

Let's say that this young frat star is approximately 6 feet tall. He would be wearing  $\$518.50/6\text{ft} =$  **\$86.42 / ft**

**\$86.42 per linear foot**

Which comes out to **\$7.20 / in.**

**\$7.20 per linear inch.**

To strike it closer to home, this one outfit is equivalent to  $\$518.50 / \$0.25 =$  **2,074 cookies**

**Equal to 2,074 cookies**

or about  $\$518.50 / \$99.99 =$  about **5 iPhone 4S's.**

**Equal to about 5 iPhone 4s's**

It's your money... Stay classy and frat on.

# MBA FASH

## WHY DO WE WEAR





# ION WEEK

## R WHAT WE WEAR?



## A personal perspective on MBA style:



By Alex Floyd  
Staff Writer

Times are changing on the Hill. New buildings are rising and leaves are falling, but along with that change a new wave of fashion has come ashore. Well, I guess it is less of a wave and more of a division. The student body has divided into two fashion factions, one consisting of guys who couldn't care less about what they wear and the other consisting of men who put a little more effort into their daily dress. Actually, if one were to juxtapose this separation next to the Romney/Obama divide, it'd be difficult to discern which is which. But anyhow, I am a member of this latter faction, and I am proud of it. The days of wearing clothing just to keep warm have been over since the Neanderthals, and now clothing represents who you are as a person.

We on the Hill are lucky enough to be given very liberal dress codes that allow for freedom. Why not utilize that freedom? Honestly, the reason girls won't talk to you is probably because you've worn that same polo everyday this year, so trade in that polo for a crisp new button-down and burn that UT sweatshirt you haven't taken off since birth. I remember when my brother was at MBA from 2004-2007. Looking at his yearbooks, students pretty much wore a polo and khakis every single day, but now a new day has risen. More and more button-downs are being worn. Sweatshirts are being exchanged for sweaters (I take credit for that), and those Wallabies are being replaced by Sperry's. It's a good thing. MBA has stopped looking like a preppy version of Jango Fett's clone factory from *Star Wars Episode II*. There are still those who remain faithful to the traditional MBA look and that's fine. Boring, but fine. Those traditionalists will always remain; I mean, we're talking about MBA here.

One fashion trend that has pleasantly surprised me is the colored khaki, specifically red. I assume the majority of these pants are the J. Crew Urban Chinos - fine choice. Let's see how crazy we can get with these colors though. I recently purchased a pair of bright shiny blue ones. Top me. I would love to see some bright lime green ones or even some striped ones.

One fashion trend that has disappointed me is the traditional Big Red day sweat pants. I was walking across campus during spirit week, and a man visiting the school approached me and asked me why everyone was out of dress code, referring to a mass of boys walking by, all wearing sweatpants. I replied that it was a spirit week and he said, "A bunch of lazy spirits." Whoa. Low blow, dude. I awkwardly chuckled and then even more awkwardly shuffled off. I understand it's spirit week and that it's our chance to do what we want and not be in dress code, but I'm pretty sure the day's theme was not lazy. You have freedom to be creative, so be creative.

Overall the fashion of the campus is changing and changing rapidly. More and more people are putting effort into their dress selection and in doing so are adding class to our student body. For those of you in sweat pants, and those of you haven't changed out of a polo and khakis in six years, step your game up.

## The state of MBA style\*

By Nick Green  
Staff Writer

With MBA's vague dress code ("Clean dress or sport shirts with collars... full-length trousers or khakis with standard pockets"), students are allowed to wear a diverse collection of clothing, compared to that of Father Ryan or Ensworth. An increasing number in the student body uses the vagueness of the dress code as license for personal style. Lucas Littlejohn summed up the sentiment, "I think the whole Polo-and-Sperrys look is a little bit worn out. People dress as such because it's the norm. They don't really care about

clothes so they absorb the style of everyone around them. To me, the most important thing is to define your own style. Be fratty, be hipster, be a cowboy, whatever, just enjoy having your own style. Don't wear, say, a hoody because everyone else wears one, wear a hoody because you like it and it adds to your sense of style. I wear the slim-pant, hipster-y look. It fits me because I like being different and standing out. And I like having a style that is all my own." Rather than doing the norm, Lucas points out, a rising group of students have found a way to signify their own personalities through their clothing and style.

McKay Proctor, who typically

goes above and beyond the dress code, agrees, saying, "I believe that my sense of style is an important extension of my personality." There are those that seek the other extreme. Furman Haynes, who enjoys fitting into the archetypal Southern polo look, said, "Polos are great. They are really frat and I like them." Jack Benton, however, has a different reason for his dress: "Guys can't get away with wearing camo, or leaving mud on the side of their trucks for months, so I express that through clothes." Jack is suggesting that instead of the leniency in the clothing policy at MBA being a way for students to express themselves, it is rather a way for students

### \*According to Nick Green

to rebel against MBA's "traditional" form of the clean shaven gentleman.

Whether intentional or not, a student's decisions in attire are a portal into his personality. If he consciously chooses to rebel against MBA by finding loopholes, or if he finds clothing that is personally appealing, the student acts upon his own inner self and literally "wears his heart on his sleeve." So, students, be yourselves and wear what you want. Style may be one of the only ways to outwardly express yourself within the confines of MBA.





**38 YEARS YOUNG:** R.A. Dickey's miraculous year has been well documented by media in all markets, but *The Bell Ringer* would like to take this opportunity to formally congratulate him on being a great pitcher and an even better human being.

# “The height of this story”

R.A. Dickey reflects on his Cy Young and an incredible season

>> **R.A. DICKEY, 1**

Mets team that struggled badly this season, ending the year at a 74-88 record. Dickey was the first knuckleballer ever to win the Cy Young award and the Mets' first 20-game winner since Frank Viola in 1990. In addition, Dickey had a 2.73 ERA and led the National League in strikeouts (230), innings pitched (233 2/3) and complete games (5).

Dickey has had to fight through mountains of adversity during his lifetime. Sexually abused as a child and without responsible parents, he led a sad and

confused life until being taken in by the Bartholomew family, whose two sons went on to play football at the University of Tennessee and whose daughter ended up marrying Dickey. After a successful pitching career at the University of Tennessee, Dickey was drafted by the Texas Rangers in 2001 and offered a massive signing bonus which was rescinded and drastically cut at the discovery of an elbow problem. Still, carrying the burden of his personal problems, Dickey even had thoughts of suicide during his adult life.

However, later during his life,

Dickey became a born-again Christian and began to turn his life around. After being shipped around to various teams and developing his signature pitch, the knuckleball, Dickey signed with the New York Mets in 2010 and instantly succeeded, throwing a one-hitter in a minor-league game, a feat which he would repeat in the majors -- twice in a row -- during the 2012 season with the Mets.

Literature, no doubt stemming from an MBA education, has had a profound impact on Dickey's life. He majored in English at UTK, and would

have become an English professor had he not gone professional in baseball. He has even named his bats after literary swords: Orcrist from *The Hobbit* and Hrunting from *Beowulf*. Hemingway's writings inspired him to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro to raise awareness for human trafficking in India. In addition to this noble cause, Dickey operates Honoring the Father Ministries, which provides supplies to the impoverished in Latin America.

Always humble, Dickey said, “The height of this story...it's mind-blowing to me. It really is.”



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CATERING

SPECIAL EVENTS



# Football closes a season of hard fought wins

By Aaron Kaplan  
Staff Writer

The MBA Varsity Football team was very successful this year. The Big Red squad had a win-loss record of 9-4.

MBA opened the season at home against Kingsbury High School from Memphis. The Big Red demolished the Falcons, winning 51-0. In the second half, the defense only allowed 13 yards from Kingsbury.

Following the victory over Kingsbury, the Big Red played a home game against nationally ranked Trinity High School from Kentucky. The game was incredibly close, with MBA students on their feet throughout. With time winding down and the Big Red behind, Trinity was forced to punt. That punt was blocked and the Big Red had better-than-expected field position to make a last attempt at the end zone. That heave fell short, yet the Big Red had an excellent performance against a challenging opponent. Despite the loss, this game built confidence in the Big Red's ability going forward.

Coming off the disappointing loss to Trinity, MBA traveled to Brentwood Academy and lost 24-6. The following



**MBA-ND OF BROTHERS:** The 27 seniors who played football this year lead well on and off the field

game was in Chattanooga against Baylor. Despite being down 20-10 late in the game, the Big Red caught up with two touchdown passes. The Big Red did pull off a victory.

Playing against at BGA on their homecoming, MBA pulled off a 41-0 victory, putting a damper on whatever gala affairs were planned. With 370 rushing yards, MBA trounced BGA's defense. The team then returned home to then play Pearl-Cohn and won 50-14. The next week, MBA played Father Ryan, later to be a playoff opponent, at home and won 28-3 with 437 rushing yards.

Coming off a 4-game winning streak, MBA ran into a roadblock at Ensworth High School. Ensworth handed the Big Red a 35-7 loss. Returning home, MBA played McCallie and won 52-7 before playing JPII at home the next week. The Big Red defeated JPII 31-17. The Big Red came back from a 14-point deficit and did not allow one first down in the second half.

The Big Red then moved on to the TSSAA playoffs, defeating Father Ryan again. This time, the score was 17-7. Father Ryan gave the Big Red a little

scare with a late touchdown and ensuing onside kick, but MBA pulled out victorious regardless. Advancing in the bracket, MBA took on Christian Brothers in Memphis. MBA won 36-21.

MBA traveled down Highway 100 to face their most dreaded rival, Ensworth, in the playoff semifinals. The Tigers took the victory with a score of 35-7. It was an emotional loss for Big Red players, but they took it in good stride.

This season, MBA saw great improvement in the football program. The Big Red played very well throughout the season, beating most teams by a very large margin, and only losing to three different teams: Trinity, BA, and Ensworth, two of which were nationally ranked.

MBA is sad to see the senior players graduate, but have an impressive amount of talent coming from this year's junior, sophomore, and freshman classes. The Big Red, according to Coach Euverard, came one game short of this year's goal - to play in the state championship. Big Red players and fans alike are all excited about this season's successes and are looking forward to another great season next school year.

## Thank you, Rack City | Two football players thank the students

To the gentlemen of Rack City,

Over the course of OVER 100 years of MBA football, not once has a student section had the presence of the rowdy yet still very much gentlemanly atmosphere of "Rack City." How do I know? I got connections, that's how I know. But to the point, Rack City really made this past football season one to remember. No other year could even come close to the support that this fan-base gave nearly the entire year. I say nearly because, well, the McCallie home game was truly empty by the second half. Where everyone was is still a mystery to this day. Hopefully, in the spirit of Big Red Brotherhood, they were with their friends somewhere else, but we may never know.

During every other game, the support was simply overwhelming, and the team as a whole could never thank everyone enough. Seeing as I was someone who "didn't see the field much" (aka the backup Quarterback, yes that was actually me), I really got to take in the full Rack City effect. I felt like Rack City really enjoyed being at the game, and being a part of the culturally diverse crowd. It's obligatory for me to start thanking lots and lots of people to sound professional and respectful. Thank you to Gonner Criffin for being "that guy" up there leading Rack City into battle every week. Also, thank you for the sacrifices you made, especially during the Ensworth (boo-hissss) game where you lost your two front teeth in a fight with either former Ensworth "Student" Antonio Richardson or the Corn "Men" before the game. My reports were mixed, so I can't be sure who fought whom, but I know that Gonner won easily. You really set the tone, and the football team would like to apologize for not winning in your honor, but we all hope you find your two front teeth.

Thank you to Jack Wagster for allegedly buying paint, and thanks for leading Pep Rallies as well. Also thank you to the store that manufactured all the paint, I suppose. It was very MBA-like red.

Well what a year it's been. We didn't win State, but we sure as heck had the time of our lives, on and off the field. We didn't stay injury-free, but luckily, no one died. So there's a plus. I'll never forget the memories of our last game at Ensworth. Nothing will ever replace the feeling of watching our entire Student Section run across those fields at Ensworth and the ensuing-pandemonium of small children running away, or the feeling of being on the field for the first play of the game. It was the opening kickoff, and yes, believe it or not, I was on the field playing my 1 of 2 plays. But aside from all the joking and stuff, this was truly a year to remember, and a year that I will never forget. The unity of our class is unbelievable, and we can truly bring this school together as a whole. Let's take this brotherhood to the next season of athletics, and truly be gentlemen by the ideals of Rack City. As a shirtless Barry Goldsmith once cried out, "WE ARE THE WILD BOYS OF RACK CITY, WE FINNA BE THE BEST DEH EVA WAS [sic]." Let us truly be the best out there. Thank you to all the bros out there. God Bless and ROLL RED.

Your brother always,  
Ryan Potter (@PotterTre0)

**The Bell Ringer would like to thank the 2012 Big Red football team on behalf of Rack City for fighting hard at every opportunity. Roll Red Roll! Long live Rack City!**

Dear Rack City,

Seeing the racks on racks on racks of scholars congregate topless in support of me and my teammates was an experience that helped to define my high school career. Not only am I incredibly proud of the brotherhood the 2012 MBA football team developed through summer workouts and a trip to Bell Buckle, but it also gave me chills to see the entire student body take pride in us.

Knowing that we had the most loyal and consistently annoying fan base in the region gave us a psychological advantage before games ever kicked off. Short of a few pessimistic comments the week leading up to the Trinity game, the belief displayed by the student body as a whole helped the team to believe as well. Even though we came up short at the end of the day, the tone had been set for the entire season; the MBA student section would give opposing teams fits, even if the team was the reigning national champ. In a game that historically features two of the rowdiest student sections in the state, MBA took over Brentwood Academy in what ended up looking like a home game from the players' point of view. Even a trip to Chattanooga provided memorable antics from the Rack City JV squad, as throngs of microbes crowded beneath the Baylor scoreboard and twirled their shirts above their heads in response to our game-winning drive.

Then there's the episode that no member of the current MBA student body will soon forget. The stampede across the Ensworth practice fields that left a few unfortunate younglings maimed. The seemingly endless wave of white that overtook the field reminded me of the scene from *Lord of the Rings: Return of the King* where Aragorn and the Army of the Dead swallow up Sauron's army in an adrenaline-fueled charge that pulled me off the couch. The chills the rampage gave me stuck until the game actually kicked off.

More than anything I'll just remember the sense of obligation our team had to fulfill our classmates' expectations. On Tuesdays when practice was half over and it felt like it was already about 8 o'clock, it may sound cheesy or unrealistic, but we really did think about what it would be like to let the fans down. We were playing for more than just ourselves; we were playing so that every single student at MBA could feel a part of something bigger than any one individual. I remember when the team won the state championship our 7<sup>th</sup> grade year, I was proud to be at MBA. Everyone that asked me about how school was going received a frustratingly longwinded response concerning the success of a team I technically wasn't part of. However, seeing everyone screaming in the stands and storming across fields led me to believe that this year more than ever presented the opportunity for the football team to give the student body a reason to be proud to be Red.

All of the hard work I personally put in over the past 4 years culminated on the Ensworth field after our team's final game. Disappointed and driven to tears, several members of Rack City came out of the bleachers to console me and my teammates and to tell us how proud they were of our season. While it was certainly disappointing to fall short of Cookeville, the unification of the student body that we referred to as Rack City helped give closure to my MBA football career, as well as for the careers of many seniors. While it's hard to close the chapter on what was an incredible football season for players and fans alike, there are still two sports seasons left for the student body to show out. After this football season, I can say emphatically that I am proud to go to MBA.

Roll Red,  
Andrew Einstman (@giddyupSTEIN)





## Titans Linebacker Gerald McGrath sits down with *The Bell Ringer*

By Ian Sholer  
Staff Writer

*The 2009 fourth round draft pick from Southern Mississippi, currently on injured reserve with a ruptured patella tendon in his left knee, speaks on the offseason, concussions and the toughest tackles in the NFL*

### Bell Ringer: How concerned are you about concussions?

Gerald McGrath: I would say not as much as everyone on the outside. When I say outside, I mean people who don't play football. I don't think I'm as concerned as they are because I've been playing since I was five. When you're playing, you always know that you could get a concussion, but I think the proper thing to do is knowledge and education on how to prevent them because there are a lot of ways to prevent concussions as far as how to tackle right. It's so crazy because you kinda lose that once you get to this level. It's always "however you can get the guy down just do it," but if you use those fundamentals that you were taught back in the peewees, head across the ball and not leading with your head down. Things like that can definitely improve the amount of concussions. If you know how to tackle and you have the education and awareness, you can stay

away from them. Then at the same time there are gonna be incidents where you just can't avoid it; it just happens.

### BR: How was draft day for you?

GM: I think anybody would tell you that draft day is the longest, worst day you'll ever have. You just sit in a room and you just wait. You have not a clue what's gonna happen, you just sit by the phone waiting on the call. The anxiety of seeing where you'll go is tough. For me coming out, I didn't really have team that I wanted to go to. I just wanted to play for somebody who wanted me. I just wanted someone to like me enough to draft me, and I just wanted to give my all to that team. Things worked out that I got to come to Tennessee. It's a great place. I love being here, there's nothing like being a Titan. I didn't really have a team in mind, I just wanted to keep playing ball.

### BR: Which running-backs are the hardest to tackle?

GM: Honestly all of them. Everybody's good in The League. One back that stood out was Ricky Williams. I played him my rookie year and it was really tough to get him down. LaDainian Tomlinson was pretty tough because he was so small. But Ricky Williams was a real load to take down when he still had it. If I had to pick

one I guess I'd have to say Ricky Williams.

### BR: What about tight-ends? Which are the hardest to guard?

GM: I would say Tony Gonzalez. He's so manipulative with the way he moves his body. He moves so slow so it makes you anxious to jump the route, but he does a great job of just making moves to get separation. He does a great job with body positioning, almost like in basketball when you're down in the post and you're trying to get a good shot.

### BR: How do you compare Mike Munchak and Jeff Fischer?

GM: They're both very different coaches, Fish being a guy that's established, that's been in The League for a long time as a head coach. Fish is a legend in Nashville. Then at the same time you got Munchak, who was a player for the Oilers and a Hall-of-Famer, and his coaching style is a bit different. They are both great coaches. Fish was more laid back, Munchak is more of a blue-collar type guy. Both styles worked great for their personalities. They're different but both great at the same time. I really enjoyed playing under both coaches because at the end of the day they're both passionate about what they do and it shows in their coaching.

### BR: What do you do during the offseason?

GM: I train. Being in The League, you really can't get days off in my eyes if you want to continue to succeed. Because every year there are people that are training who want to come in and play. You always have to keep your edge and continue to work. You always have to be able to continue to work. You don't want to stay the same, you have to grow as a player. I typically take about two weeks off and then I head to Arizona to train and I train there until it's time to report back.

### BR: Why Arizona?

GM: For me, Arizona is far away from what I know. When I trained for the combine, I trained out in Arizona because it eliminates distractions. When you're at home with your friends and buddies, they might want to do things that you really can't do. But going out to Arizona offers a sense of peace to focus on the task at hand. Plus the weather is great. It doesn't rain.

## Bowling Team strives for greatness, cheese fries

By Nick Green  
Staff Writer

As the MBA Bowling season approaches playoffs, the 9-4 Big Red have lept to third place in their division with a chance to earn a bye and skip district playoffs, automatically placing them in the state tournament. With notable wins against Ensworth and Father Ryan, as well as rivals Battle Ground Academy, seniors Jack "Cap'n Crunch" Bond, Captain Nick Green, Lucas Fortune, and junior Nilay Patel have led the bowlers to a great season after a rough start.

Junior Chase Duffey and freshmen Brinton Hoover and Jackson Wooten also have made significant contributions to the team, securing important victories in their matches.

Sophomore George Hunt, a new addition to the bowling team, proudly stated that "[joining] contributed to my making it into the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile weight class." New bowlers Tobi Kehinde, Zach Roberts, Jackson Wooten, Brinton Hoover, and George Hunt have all greatly improved their scores since the beginning of the season, allowing them to participate in important matches to grasp big wins for the Big Red.

The Big Red bowlers have shown extraordinary ability to fight back from behind and tenacity to hold a lead. Both of these traits permeate the squad.

Captain Jack Bond expressed his excitement and expectations for the team: "I see a great future for the team, especially in the near future. We will hopefully get a good spot in the state tournament seeding and make it far in the tournament." The MBA Bowling Team's regular season ends with matches against Ezell-Harding and powerhouse Donelson Christian Academy with the home-advantage of Hillwood Strike and Spare. Backed by the great coaching of Commander Carr and Coach Komando, the Big Red Bowlers have high hopes for this season.

## The Sports Column Echoes of Rack City



By Barry Goldsmith  
Staff Writer

It would be easy to take off the paint, put down the vuvuzelas, and call it quits. Rack City could go the way of breakfast-for-lunch day and the fleshpile. Little would change. We would continue about our business in our compartmentalized lives and never think about what could have been. I'm sure we'll rally around a few basketball games and that's nice. The school would continue to operate. Themes would be written, cookies would be bought, and there would be nothing different about our lives.

I don't know how you felt in that mass of sweat and paint, but every time I was in that student section, I felt the purest

form of the camaraderie that goes out in our brochures I ever have in my MBA career. It doesn't have to end like this.

Part of this is the vehement MBA soccer fan in me, but I run through my mental Rolodex of sporting experiences and I recall more instances of teams playing in awkward quiet than moments like the last handful of Friday nights. I understand this is the South and football is as universal a cultural experience as *It's a Wonderful Life* or the soundtrack of *The Lion King*, but come on, people! Do we not have enough love in our hearts for two - dare I say three - sports? When was the last time you went to a game against Father Ryan in a sport where we are still rivals? When was the last time you left a lacrosse game saying "Goodness me! The fans certainly were mo-bile a-gile and hos-tile out there!"

We talk about the tangible effect that a crowd has on the game all the time. Do you think that home-field advantage starts and stops with sports that Andrew

Einstman plays? Teams with a crowd behind them are sharper, more inspired. We know that teams play better with crowd support, but the corollary is also true. Some teams are falling short of their potential because we are not there. That's why Rack City must keep going.

If this seems like a personal point of contention, it is. For the last four years I have watched some of the most brilliant soccer players this school has produced (Oldham, Emerson, Meluch, Gill, the list goes on) labor in obscurity for 90 minutes on home fields more church house than hostile environment. In at least one big game a year - especially against the other all-boys schools in the state - the Big Red will come out looking unsure and borderline impotent.

What manifests itself as purposeless first touches and uninspired through balls is really an acute isolation. Eleven young men on a parking garage in the middle of the suburban sprawl of a million-some-odd people are alone and they

can't shake the quiet.

Part of the appeal of the beautiful game is its communal nature. Soccer fans are among the most tightly-knit in the sporting world. Soccer fans tend to dress up in funny costumes and sing biting chants (sound familiar?). The situation is strange, we love to cheer, and they need people to cheer for them pretty often, but soccer games happen in front of me and a maximum of twelve other people.

I don't mean to make this sound like an ad for the Fighting Marcus Rileys, but that's where the lack of support hits home for me. What I am talking about is as true for Will Campbell and the baseball team as it is for Hayden Deakins and the soccer team. What I want you to know is simple: we had something special here, something that does not have to end. Keep your Jason mask handy and think of some new chants. Let's make sure Rack City does not wither in the cold of winter.



# STONE COLD KILLERS:

## Winter sports preview

### SWIMMING:

By McLean Hudson and  
Wesley Jenkins

News Editor and Staff Writer

After dominant performances in the past two state championships, the Big Red swim team returns this year with tempered aspirations of a three-peat. With a new coach, inconvenient practice schedules, and the graduation of an extremely talented senior class, the Big Red is not nearly as strong as in recent years.

After Coach Dobbs left the team earlier this year due to personal reasons, James Loveless of the Nashville Aquatic Club was hired as the new head coach. Coach Loveless grew up in New York and swam in college at the University of California Berkeley and Syracuse University. Before moving to Nashville, Loveless taught elementary school science in New York. Overall, Loveless seems like

a perfect fit for the Big Red with all of his qualifications, and he seems prepared to meet the team's future challenges.

Coach Loveless brings a more laidback style to the team that it hadn't seen under Coach Dobbs. The former coach, who still helps out with practice when his schedule permits, was markedly more energetic at practice and during meets. One of the team captains, Alan Liang, notes that there is more stroke-specific work and emphasis on technique under Loveless, as opposed to an emphasis on general fitness under Dobbs.

Difference in approach aside, the head coach's passion for the sport is unchanged. One of Alan's fellow captains, Jonathan Siktberg, says, "Both have a love for swimming that spreads throughout the team."

Two of the biggest hindrances facing the swim team are the graduation of Adam Cornett, Nathan Stinson, and Maclin Davis, all three of whom helped the Big Red set records on the way to a state championship, and the loss of practice time

at the JCC.

Said the assistant coach, Dr. Boyd, "Even with the outstanding leadership we have, it's hard to replace Olympic quality swimmers."

The changed practice schedule is the result of the expansion of the JCC's youth swim program, which now occupies the full pool during the usual practice time. The coaches hoped to have lanes at the Centennial Sportsplex available this season, but the failure of Ensworth's natatorium to pass code has forced Ensworth's team to remain at the Sportsplex and to occupy the lanes MBA hoped to rent. This unfortunate situation has resulted in a schedule that can only be called inconvenient.

The swim team now practices from 7:30PM to 9:00 at the JCC on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, has dry land practice after school on Thursdays, and swims again at the JCC from 4:30PM to 6:00 on Saturdays and Sundays. This schedule has bred discontent among the swimmers. When it was first announced, many long time team members quit on the spot. Still more swimmers are

forced to miss weekend practices for family events. Even with these challenges, Dr. Boyd is optimistic: "With our large team of 45 swimmers, we should take regionals."

MBA got off to a solid 3-0 start in the region, taking down Oakland, the Tennessee Home School Makos, and a very talented Ravenwood team in consecutive meets. The Big Red was edged out by reigning Kentucky state champions St. Xavier a few weeks ago, but the final tally was actually closer than in the same matchup last year.

After finishing the regular season on Tuesday with a win over Brentwood High, the team looks to be in prime position to fulfill Dr. Boyd's prediction of bringing home the regional title once again. Led by seniors Tate Ramsden, a Dartmouth commit, and Andrew Dobbs, who also plans to swim in college, along with sophomore Chatham Dobbs, the team has the leadership and talent it needs to compete well and possibly overachieve against a very tough field at state.

### WRESTLING:

By Sam Weien

Asst. News Editor

The Big Red wrestling team is ready to travel to Germantown, Tennessee on November 30 for the Black Horse Invitational, its first tournament of the season.

Although the team has lost many of its strong seniors from last year, it looks to continue their previous success. This year, captains John Tully, Franklin Garston, and Morris Eguakun look to lead the team. Coach Frank Simpson says that "These experienced leaders will be able to guide the team to success".

The path to the state championship will not be a cakewalk; the Big Red wrestlers will have stiff competition. Local rival Father Ryan has not lost a step and continues to compete at a high level. Coach Simpson says that, "This year, like always,

Ryan is one of the toughest teams in the district, and we look forward to facing them".

Looking West, Christian Brothers High School in Memphis will also be proficient this year. They are consistently bringing in great wrestlers through a strong feeder system and are looking to build off their victory in the State Duals last year.

Following the Black Horse Invitational, the team's next major tournament is Middle Tennessee Grand Championships at Brentwood Academy. This tournament, beginning on December 14, consists of mainly local competition and is a good way to compare the team to nearby competition.

The Southeastern Prep Slam in Atlanta is a very competitive tournament, and the Big Red wrestlers look to build off of their top-ten finish last year. On January 18<sup>th</sup>, the team will face forty-five teams from across the nation in one of the most prestigious wrestling tournaments in the nation.

Throughout the season, there the floor. He protects the rim and controls the paint. Einstman has a silky perimeter game to go with considerable athletic gifts. Expect his inside-outside play to be a critical cog in the Big Red's offensive machinery. He also is a dogged rebounder where Kaiser relies on his length. Hodges provides the team with a toughness and swagger that define the team's energy. He gets to the basket and the free-throw line with ease.

Although the team's losing some of its biggest contributors is a problem, it could also be an advantage. Senior Andrew Einstman says that the absence of familiar faces "will allow us to sneak up on people." There are several up-and-coming players that can hit the open shot and also play hard on defense.

Experience will be an important factor for this year's squad. While the team does not have many experienced players returning, Coach Anglin expects them to

are several dual-matches, including ones against Brentwood High, Independence High, Clarksville High, and Brentwood Academy. Furthermore, there are a couple of local tournaments in which the Big Red will participate, including the MBA duals on December 22.

The season essentially culminates on January 26, with the final dual-match at Father Ryan. Coach Simpson calls this an "old school fight where every point matters." Although the match is at Ryan this year, Coach Simpson expects many citizens of the Big Red Nation to show up and support their team.

Following this, the team has the Tennessee State Duals and the Individual Championships at the Williamson County Agriculture Center on February 2 and 15, respectively.

One of the most evident changes on the wrestling team this year is the arrival of Coach Patrick Simpson, son of Coach Frank Simpson. He was a four-year letter winner at West Point and spent a year and a half at the Olympic Training Center. Further,

overcome this difficulty quickly. If the seniors can step up as the leaders of the team and younger players like Alex Bars ('14), Vinny Gaglione ('14), and Duncan Smith ('14) can rise to the occasion, then this team could make some noise in the league. Bars especially can make an impact clearing space with his powerful shoulders where Howard's length would have sufficed last year. Smith will continue to be a strong option at off guard with good footwork and smart defensive positioning.

This year's conference looks to be just as competitive as last year's, if not more so. When asked about his view of the other teams, Coach Anglin remarked that "The league across the state is as good and balanced as I have seen it in my time at MBA." There are several talented teams this year, and the state title is up for grabs. Ensworth, Baylor, and Briarcrest look to be the toughest teams, but even JPPII could be

he won the US Military Championships and even competed in the World Military Championships. Coach Frank Simpson thinks that his son will help the team by bringing "youthful spirit, stimulated energy and tremendous experience to the team." Moreover, "His experience truly meshes with his ability as a head coach."

There are numerous individuals on the team this year that have a great chance of doing well. Jay Robertson (Heavyweight), Morris Eguakun (220 lb), and Franklin Garston (195 lb) all have a significant chance at winning the state-championship in their weight-class. The seniors in the upper weight-classes will be the anchors for the team this year.

The juniors look to improve their results by focusing on back points. Below them, Sam Bellet and Mark Floyd look to lead the young but talented lightweights and middleweights on the team. If the entire team is able to band together and translate their effort into more success, then the Big Red wrestlers will become an unstoppable powerhouse.

a powerful force.

Despite the amount of skill at other schools, MBA expects to compete with the best of them. As Andrew Einstman puts it, "We can beat anybody in the league, but if we aren't focused, we could lay an egg and lose as well."

It won't only be the players that factor into the team's success, however. MBA's student section, Rack City, has gained much attention from coaches and players alike. The team hopes that Rack City will be just as rowdy as it was during football season. According to Einstman, "From what some of my friends have told me, all crazy antics should carry over into basketball season."

The Big Red opens its season against an out-of-state opponent from Kentucky, Christian County High School, on November 30, and the team is hoping to start out with a solid victory.

### BASKETBALL:

By Cole Campbell

Staff Writer

Approaching the upcoming basketball season, the MBA team will have a whole new look.

After losing key players such as David Howard and Austin Blackwell, the team will need every one of its members to achieve success. According to Coach Anglin, "It will be more of a group effort, relying less on one or two guys to carry us." Team captains Tom "Tree" Kaiser ('13), Kamani Hodges ('13), and Andrew "Pony" Einstman ('13) will play an especially important role in helping MBA chase a state title.

Kaiser brings a polished skill set to



# Shields your eyes. It's that good.

## New heights for Indie rock's milk-and-honey Bear

By Lucas Littlejohn  
Entertainment Editor

Create a sound with a debut album. Work that sound for at least one more album as people buy the first. Shy away from the original sound to one that is more upbeat and pop-like. Sell a load of albums. Realize that the new sound has betrayed the band's origins and, with a new album, revert to an older sound while still moving forward.

This trend in music has become more common over the past several years (think of my review of Animal Collective's *Centipede Hz* last issue). Grizzly Bear has followed this pattern with their most recent effort, *Shields*, an extremely refined reestablishment of the sound created by *Yellow House* (2006) over the megafamous *Veckatimest* (2009).

Don't get me wrong, *Veckatimest* is absolutely magical. It deserved every award it received. An undoubted 5 Bells out of 5. However, with *Shields*, GB states that their real sound doesn't lie within minimalistic rhythms and the synthesizer; it is found in the organic freedom of guitar, drums, and piano posed by *Yellow House*.

That being said, *Shields* for the

most part sticks to these three instruments (and Ed Droste's elegant, swaying vocals) and achieves a more camping-on-the-mountainside-with-a-bonfire-y kind of sound. The shift from *Veckatimest*'s subtle electronic idiosyncrasies to the earthy tone of *Shields* was unexpected, but pulled off expertly and beautifully. It still celebrates Grizzly Bear's signature flair. Still you will find quirky funk rhythms, two or three minute periods of vocal-free jamming, remarkable auditory depth of each track, and the gritty instrumentals that create that depth.

The bottom line is that if your music taste even remotely resembles mine, this album won't leave your speakers. Grizzly Bear has capitalized on the success of *Veckatimest* by ignoring it almost entirely. There is so much meat to this album that its grandeur will last until their next album, which, based on the timespan of their last three albums, will come out in 2015. Grizzly Bear can do no wrong.

5 waffles out of 5



## Flying Lotus does it again

By Lucas Littlejohn  
Entertainment Editor

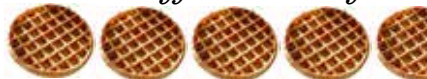
Upon first analysis of the album cover of Los Angeles experimental electronic music producer Flying Lotus' new album *When the Quiet Comes*, I see the whirling motion and billowing drapery of some exotic dancer represented in the half-conscious state of a dream world. The ambiguous array of reds, yellows, greens, and browns seems to draw inspiration from the dreaminess of the sound that Flying Lotus has created and the direction he has taken with this album.

First of all, let me say that this album, like FlyLo's previous efforts, is truly a work of art. Like a conceptual contemporary painting or a modernist poem, he uses electronic music as a medium for expressing his ideas, as an experiment in music's influence on the mind of the listener, and as a vehicle for bringing these ideas and experiments to us.

Even apart from the artsy nature of FlyLo's music, *When the Quiet Comes* is an absolutely beautiful conglomeration of sounds and a pleasure to get lost in. Flying Lotus displays his supreme ability to create ambience and depth with the layering of subtle tones and instrumentals. Where his last album, *Cosmogramma* (2010) was an experiment in glitchy, lurid rhythms and the use of sound samples from orchestral scores to create an epic, sweeping sound, *When the Quiet Comes* is a smooth, much more personal attempt to unite man's conscious with his subconscious. The dreaminess of each track and the hushed, disorganized tones of each melody create the freedom and the floating feeling of the constructed dream world. What is the



4.5 waffles out of 5



soundtrack to our dreams? Flying Lotus seems to answer such a question with this album.

*When the Quiet Comes* is remarkably cohesive (it's often difficult to discern the transition between individual tracks), but there are a few standout songs. "All In," the album's opener, a bubbly, rhythmic, and melodic gem, is my favorite track. "All the Secrets," a sophisticated, jazz-inspired head-bobber of a song is a favorite, as well as "Until the Quiet Comes," an exotic journey into a chaotic land. Lastly, "Electric Candyman," featuring Thom Yorke (yes, you read that right) adds a hazy and bizarre melody to the album.

Flying Lotus' latest work is polished and moving. To listen to *When the Quiet Comes* effectively, one must play it in the background of whatever he's doing. The next time you're on a road trip, turn on this album, ignore it, put it out of your thoughts, and let it work your emotions, let your mind wander wherever it takes you. It is a work of art that deserves to be treated as such.

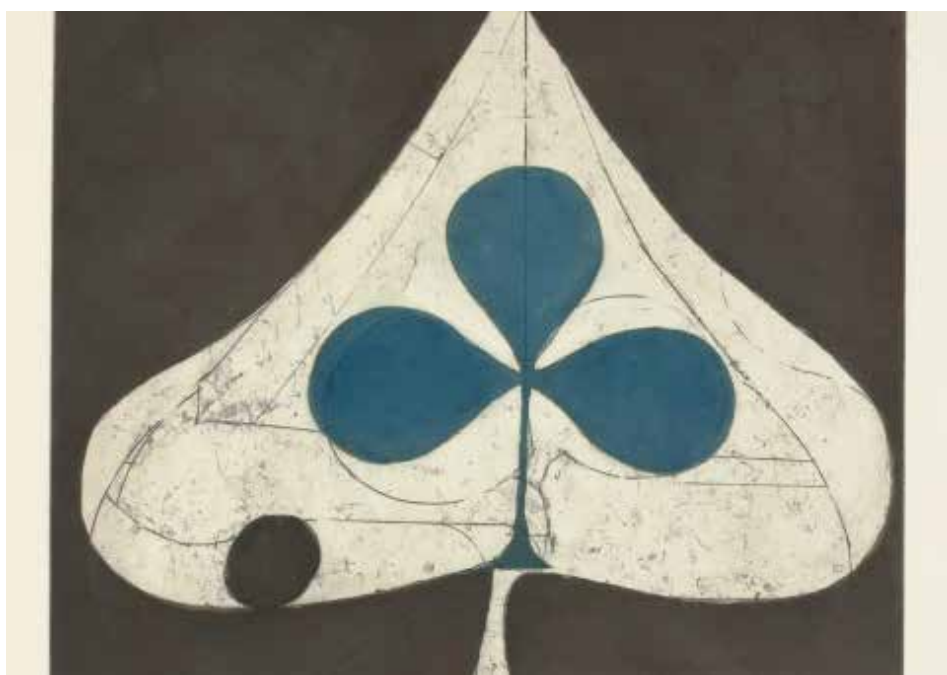
## The Highlights

•"Yet Again" – One of the best songs ever. A perfect balance of musical energy, production, and instrumental originality. Also introduces the shimmering cymbal and percussion sounds that reoccur throughout the album.

•"Sleeping Ute" – The album's absolutely stunning single. An energetic bridge between *Veckatimest* and *Shields*. This song would have secured the #1 spot if "Yet Again" weren't so darn good.

•"Half-Gate" – A mellow and lighthearted addition to the excellence of this album. A genuine feel-good song for driving down the interstate, sitting on the porch, or doing just about anything.

•"The Hunt" – A somber piano and percussion romp. The underlying gloomy tones and vocals mesh for a spine-chilling experience. One of the best examples of GB's use of subtlety to create depth.



UNSHIELDED BRILLIANCE: *Shields* is the best yet from Grizzly Bear. Our Lucas Littlejohn puts it with the best of the last decade as well

## Lightning is Matt and Kim's best

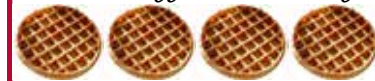
By Werner Bradshaw  
Staff Writer

Brooklyn duo Matt and Kim are best known for their extremely enthusiastic sound. Despite their limitations of having only a drummer (Kim) and a pianist (Matt), all of their songs have a unique message and vibe. On their first two albums, Matt and Kim showed the world how catchy the sound of a traditional piano can be when it is combined with fast-paced drums and enthusiastic lyrics. Their newest release, *Lightning*, keeps the familiar Matt and Kim pace, but with a touch of modern-day top-40 pop sound.

Matt and Kim seem to be headed in a different direction than most people thought with *Lightning*. It seems not to be a continuation of their previous album, *Sidewalks* (2010), but rather its own unique work. While many view *Sidewalks* as very progressive, and in some cases groundbreaking, *Lightning* seems to regress from their previous albums. Songs such as "Now" and "It's Alright" seem to be made solely to appeal to modern day pop-radio style, which didn't seem to be the case with their previous efforts. Nonetheless, the songs are great. Most of the album is very up-tempo, excluding the last song "Ten Dollars I Found." I find this pace to fit perfectly with Matt's high



4 waffles out of 5



pitched and energetic vocals. The first half of the album is particularly catchy, while the second half seems to be the work of a creative experiment. While the overall tone of the songs fades in and out from enthusiastic to punk to celebratory, the impression the album gives overall is a lighthearted one.

*Lightning* is a really easy listen – the songs are short, the tunes are catchy, and the messages are simple. I would highly recommend it to anyone. I would suggest, though, to listen to this album in one sitting. It should take you less than an hour, and I promise that you will not regret it. You will probably listen to it many more times. In my opinion, it is the best album of 2012, and so far, Matt and Kim's best album.





COMPTON'S HUMAN SACRIFICE: L.A.'s poet laureate, Kendrick Lamar INTERSCOPE RECORDS

## good kid m.A.A.d. city is insta-classic

By Alex Floyd  
Staff Writer

Someone needs to arrest Kendrick for murder because he kills this album. He absolutely and completely kills it. *good kid m.A.A.d. city* is the best hip hop album since Kanye's *MBDTF*, and possibly the best lyrical California hip hop album since... well... forever.

The album follows the story of seventeen-year-old Kendrick borrowing his mother's car to visit a girl he met at a party. The narrative begins with "Sherane: AKA Master Splinter's Daughter" and introduces us to a 17 year-old Kendrick Lamar who is immature and impressionable but overall a good kid who has been influenced by the violence and poverty of Compton. The story is Kendrick's, but the main character is Compton.

Kendrick has written songs that are competent if not brilliant on their own but when put into the context of the album become truly great. "Back Seat Freestyle" is a hilariously and intentionally immature bass thumping anthem that expresses Kendrick's ability to seamlessly transition

to different flows. The album features verses from guest artists - Drake's is especially good on "Poetic Justice" - but Kendrick never lets the listener forget that this is his album and that he is the next best thing.

After "Poetic Justice," the narrative takes a dark turn and the violence of Compton takes the stage. "Sing About Me, I'm Dying of Thirst" might be lyrically one of the best rap songs ever, rivaling Outkast's "Da Art of Storytelling," and sounds even better when juxtaposed with the equally brilliant "Real."

Although "Real" feels like it should be the natural conclusion of the *GKMC*, Kendrick breaks the melancholy with a seemingly out of place "Compton." The song feels wrong at first listen. It doesn't seem exactly to fit, but it represents a change from the routine of welfare, drugs, and guns to the high rolling lifestyle of the new king of L.A.

5 waffles out of 5



## Editor's Picks: 10 Best Albums of the Year

Lucas Littlejohn - Entertainment Editor

1. **Shields - Grizzly Bear.** Arguably the best-crafted album of the year. Grizzly Bear reigns supreme.
2. **Break It Yourself - Andrew Bird.** Hard to talk about without being melodramatic. It's transfixing. A supreme addition to the New-Age Folk music wave.
3. **Swing Lo Magellan - Dirty Projectors.** Beautifully simple. Experimental alternative that knows its limits.
4. **Until the Quiet Comes - Flying Lotus.** Art in motion.
5. **An Awesome Wave - Alt-J.** It puts a smile on your face.
6. **Bloom - Beach House.** An excellent point of departure from their somewhat repetitive first album.
7. **Happy To You - Miike Snow.** Miike Snow shifts to a more alternative sound with this memorable album.
8. **Coexist - The xx.** This seemingly one-dimensional group begins to explore their sound.
9. **The Idler Wheel... - Fiona Apple.** Refreshingly, startlingly original. Songwriting without precedent or boundaries.
10. **Master of my Make-Believe - Santigold.** A solid album from a

McKay Proctor - Editor-in-Chief

1. **Channel Orange - Frank Ocean.** André 3000 on "Pink Matter." That is all.
2. **Who's Feeling Young Now? - Punch Brothers.** Chris Thile's rag-tag band of bluegrass hooligans knocked it out.
3. **Tempest - Bob Dylan.** So old. So good.
4. **good kid m.A.A.d. city - Kendrick Lamar.** Poetic Justice.
5. **Traphouse Rock- Kids these Days.** These kids are two years older than I am. Awesome album, slight inferiority complex.
6. **A Dream Deferred -Skyzoo.** He is to Brooklyn what Penny was to Memphis in 95.
7. **4eva N A Day - Big K.R.I.T.** *What Live from the Underground* should sound like.
8. **Mr. M - Lambchop.** These locals put together a scrappy little album.
9. **Wasteland Companion - M. Ward.** Where's Zooey? I want Zooey! Oh well, he's ok I guess.
10. **Tenacious D- Rize of the Fenix.** Only 90% joking

## WESLEY JENKINS' ALBUMS OF THE YEAR

Wesley Take on the best of the best

By Wesley Jenkins  
Staff Writer

As 2012 is coming to a close, hundreds of lists are going to be coming out reviewing the "Best of 2012," so I'm taking the initiative to tell you what you should've been listening to. Here are the Best Albums of 2012, along with some others worth mentioning.

### Channel Orange - Frank Ocean

Frank Ocean had a big year: bag of Grammy nominations, a bombshell of a tumblr post and to top it off, the best R&B album since D'Angelo's *Voodoo* (Yeah, I said it). A considerable portion of the student body spent the year with this on repeat and with good reason. The list of distinguishing traits on this album would eclipse the length of this article. The most salient points are Frank's effortless lyricism, undeniable vocal talent and the best André 3000 verse of the year (Yeah, I said it). If you have not picked up this album already, put this paper down and pay someone to give it to you. Please.



CHANNEL BROWN: Frank Ocean and Zach Brown both released heavyweight albums in their genres; Ocean's was a watermark for R&B, Brown's in Country

### Night Visions - Imagine Dragons

The follow up to their widely popular EP "Continued Silence," Imagine Dragons' *Night Visions* has become a hit within the MBA community. Outside of radio pop hits "Radioactive" and "It's Time," Imagine Dragons expands on their alternative sound with slower, poignant songs such as "Bleeding Out" and "Fallen." Expect to see Imagine Dragons keep showing up on your friends' Spotify for a while to come.



### Strange Clouds - B.o.B.

The ATL-based rapper debuted his sophomore album in late May and has since well surpassed the success of his first. While tracks such as "So Good" and "Both of Us" got significant radio play for their upbeat melodies and lyrics, the true genius of the album lies in its darker songs. "So Hard to Breathe," "Circles," and "Out of my Mind" all depict the paranoia and transformation that comes with fame. Overall, B.o.B. breaks from the common mold of most prominent rappers who only

rap about partying, drugs, and girls.

### Uncaged - Zac Brown Band

Releasing his third studio album in mid-July, Zac Brown has continued his dominance over the country scene. While staying true to their country roots in "The Wind," "Day that I Die," and "Sweet Annie," the Band does experiment with rock in "Uncaged" and reggae in "Island Song." Even though the album does lack the one solid single their previous two albums have had, overall *Uncaged* is the most complete album released by the band to date.

### Watch the Throne - Kanye and Jay-Z

To wrap up this list, the King of rap and his protégé released a joint collaboration that dominated the rap scene for most of the year. With the ever present "N\*\*\*\*a's in Paris" taking over radio and sports stadiums all over the country, the duo reasserted their control over the rap game. However, the back and forth style on "Gotta Have It" and the slower reflection of "Made in America" were the true reasons for why Jay-Z will always remain the King.

## HONORABLE MENTIONS

*Breakfast* (Chiddy Bang), *Babel* (Mumford and Sons), *Coexist* (The xx), *Beacon* (2 Door Cinema Club), *Scars and Stories* (The Fray), *WZRD* (WZRD), *My Head is an Animal* (Of Monsters and Men)



# MOVIES OF THE YEAR

Will Glover spent a year at the cinema

By Will Glover  
Staff Writer

**American Horror Story:** I know... *AHS* is a television series. But the terror that this show conveys is truly worthy for cinema. Set in 1964 at the Briarcliff Mental Institution, the story follows an insane nun, a mad scientist and a serial killer who wears the skin of his victims. This show creates a hallucinatory fascination that is beyond electrifying. The show's paranoid, quasi-documentary style creates a hyperreality, blurring the line between what's real and what isn't.

**Argo:** From actor-turned-director Ben Affleck (*The Town*), *Argo* tells the true story of Tony Mendez, the CIA operative who devises a plan to rescue the six U.S. diplomats hiding in the Canadian Embassy in Tehran during the Iran hostage crisis. Tony creates a fake movie (called "Argo") and in order to escape, the American diplomats pose as Canadian filmmakers. This film, often humorous and always inspired, has a worthy story to tell as it brilliantly portrays one of the most infamous rescues in history.

**Cloud Atlas:** From the creators of *The Matrix* comes the epic of the year. *Cloud Atlas* is the telling of six different stories between the years 1849 and 2346. Each story is connected, with actors Tom Hanks and Halle Berry playing different characters in each of the different sequences. The movie is about eternal recurrence, how we are all bound to others, past and present. It's about how human interaction has the potential to forever alter the course of our lives and that the consequences of one's life will unfold throughout eternity. *Cloud Atlas* is a haunting film that will linger with you for days, as it draws the audience in, never letting go.



**MASKS ON MASKS ON MASKS:** Tom Hardy's Bane was one of the most memorable performances in *The Dark Knight Rises*, along with a haunting Marion Cotillard.

**The Dark Knight Rises:** The latest installment in Christopher Nolan's Batman trilogy is easily one of the best superhero movies ever made. Batman (Christian Bale) is pulled out of retirement as the very existence of Gotham City is threatened by Bane (Tom Hardy), a terrorist with a thermonuclear weapon. The characters are gargantuan. The story is enthralling. The movie is a spectacle that begs for your attention, and if you trust enough to let go of your seat, this film will blow you away.

**Lincoln:** A must-see for any history buff, this movie shows the last four months of Abraham Lincoln's life as he battles Washington to emancipate the slaves. The film has little physical action, as most of the story shows people talking, arguing, debating. It's undoubtedly a serious movie for serious moviegoers, but don't let appearances fool you. *Lincoln* is like a kettle over a fire: give it some time, and it will sing to the highest order. This is a film with all the winning ingredients: Steven Spielberg, Daniel Day-Lewis, The greatness of America. What's not to like?

**The Master:** This is the story of Freddie Quell (Joaquin Phoenix), a recent WWII vet who is struggling to assimilate back into society (he's also a nymphomaniac and addicted to paint thinner). Freddie's troubles are answered when he meets Lancaster Dodd (Philip Seymour Hoffman), the leader of the philosophical movement called "The Cause," which is rumored to be based on Scientology. With a pulsating soundtrack scored by Radiohead's Johnny Greenwood, this movie is dark, brooding, and simply unexplainable. A masterpiece from director Paul Thomas Anderson, and a must for fans of *There Will Be Blood*, this movie rest assured will not disappoint.

**Prometheus:** From famed director Ridley Scott (*Alien*) comes one of the most-anticipated Sci-Fi movies in years. The story follows a crew on the spaceship *Prometheus* as they search for the origins of human life on a distant planet. They discover an ancient civilization that threatens to obliterate the very existence of humanity. *Prometheus* is a frightening, sweeping story that asks big questions, but the movie doesn't pretend to have any answers. Instead, the film allows the freedom for interpretation,

giving the audience an active movie-going experience.

**Skyfall:** In the latest addition to the James Bond series, Bond (Daniel Craig) investigates a deadly attack on MI6, and discovers that a former MI6 operative, Raoul Silva (Javier Bardem), is trying to destroy the spy agency. Director Sam Mendes (*American Beauty*) brings back much of the humor found in the early Bond movies, and with this latest edition, the series feels reinvigorated. This is a big year for James Bond: *Skyfall* is the highest grossing film of the series, and it's also the fiftieth anniversary of the classic secret agent.

**Savages:** This is the story of Ben and Chon, two successful businessmen who run their own multi-million dollar marijuana-growing empire. But their success doesn't last long when a Mexican drug cartel kidnaps Ben and Chon's shared lover, Ophelia. Director Oliver Stone (*Born on the Fourth of July*) is known for his brutality and highly stylized action sequences, and *Savages* is the perfect outlet for Stone's expertise. It's rare to watch a movie and be genuinely surprised, but *Savages* accomplishes the almost impossible.

**Silver Linings Playbook:** After a stint in a mental institution, Pat Siltano returns home to his parents and meets Tiffany, an edgy, mysterious woman with deep problems of her own. The biggest draw to this movie is its stars: Bradley Cooper and Jennifer Lawrence. They are so good at what they do, and both are already in the lead for Oscar gold. Writer and director David O. Russell (*The Fighter*) gives us a movie so likeable and so charming that it's already being called the best film of the year. *SLP* is a gem and a film to be treasured, as it beautifully portrays two people in a desperate search for a silver lining.

## GAMES OF THE YEAR: JOHN AND THOMAS PICK THE BEST

By Thomas Marosz and  
John Triplett  
Staff Writers

### Halo 4

As the revered story of Cortana and Master Chief returns to the scene with 343 at the helm instead of Bungie, 343 starts off with a bang and one of the most anticipated shooters of all time doesn't disappoint. The graphics and visuals and the reworked sounds are stunning and truly awesome, and don't worry - the music is just as epic as ever (Cue opening guitar riff!). The gameplay is also outstanding as a plethora of unique new weapons serve a purpose in the amazing, heart-wrenching, and sensational campaign and its story as Chief and Cortana venture onto a mysterious Forerunner planet. There they awaken an ancient evil force and the new fast-paced and class-oriented multiplayer. The multiplayer is also revamped, with classes and new game types. Additionally, the new Spartan Ops mode replacing Firefight is great as it gives you weekly campaign-like missions where you battle campaign enemies by yourself or with friends. Overall this game is simply amazing and the best FPS if not the best game overall of 2012.

### Call of Duty Black Ops 2

Although *Call of Duty* skeptics, we believe that this game was a major improvement from the last despite the little-to-no improvement to the graphics and the silly, non-stop action movie storyline. The easy, simple game mechanics remain the same, but the futuristic approach, some new weapons, and the slightly divergent storylines change it up and break up the oh-so-similar go here, shoot this, move up, shoot them.

Despite these improvements, the new strike force missions allowing you to position and lead squads on the battlefield are frustrating as the AIs are essentially worthless, so you pretty much have to complete the objectives yourself. Despite the iffy campaign, *Zombies* is newer and better than ever with a few different modes, the ability to travel to different

places, and customizable game settings. The multiplayer also adds a few new game types and new guns, but there are always the noobs, the boosters, the annoying kids, and all of the other aspects of *Call of Duty* multiplayer. Despite some flaws, this game is still good and worth buying.



**NEW COVENANT:** Spartan 117 returns in *Halo 4*

### Assassin's Creed 3

This game is very different from *AC: Revelations* in the added settings such as revolutionary war-time Boston, New York, and the vast wilderness surrounding those places. The story of this game is based on a young and vengeful

Native American boy trying to eliminate the templars. In addition to the normal *Assassin's Creed* game aspects, hunting and exploring in the wilderness, exploring underground tunnels, a lot of new weapons, and other different side missions are present, but the campaign can seem frustrating

and busy at times as some missions seem to serve no purpose. The multiplayer is not anything amazing, but it's still solid with the many different game types and assassinations on AIs and other people. This game nonetheless brings a very new and fresh element to the series and is a delight to play - definitely worth buying.

### Borderlands 2

After a while since the original *Borderlands*, this RPG with comic-book-like graphics finally comes out as the much anticipated sequel. This exploring, loot-finders, and comedic game is set in the fantasy world of Pandora where you essentially play the game to find good loot. Despite this main objective, the story is also great as the writing is hilarious, the characters work together, and all the missions make sense. Additionally, the world of Pandora is huge and beautiful and a joy to explore and look at. This "loot game" is great, but it has flaws in the occasional use of fun vehicle missions, and the sharing of loot when you play coop with friends. Despite these flaws, the game comes together to be a very successful, unique, and fun to play venture.





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**ALL STAR STATUS:** Jess Darnell received high praise in *The Elephant Man*

By Jess Darnell  
Staff Thespian

After a highly successful performance on campus, the cast of *The Elephant Man* went into intensive rehearsals for the show's performance at the Tennessee Theater Association's One-Act State Competition. On the morning of October 26<sup>th</sup>, we loaded our set, props, and costumes into an MBA bus and set off for Maryville (Murr-eh-vull), Tennessee.

The competition, hosted by MBA's own Mr. Nelson Berry, was held at Maryville College's Clayton Center for the Arts, and consisted of about six performances from Cordova High School, White Station High School, and Donelson Christian Academy, among others. Each school is allotted a 'load-in' time to set up backstage and a 15-minute 'tech time,' to spike set pieces, sort out lighting cues, and adjust to the size of the new stage. The Clayton Center's stage is approximately the same size of the stage

# STATE CHAMPS!

*Elephant Man* is Southeasterns bound



**THESPIAN TRIUMPH:** Dr. Seay's Cast and crew brought home a state championship

at TPAC's Jackson Hall. Theater-etically (Ha!), the bigger the stage is, the more room there is for movement and expression, however in reality, it's a pain for us actors because we have to work harder to fill the space and to be louder.

*The Elephant Man* was the first of the afternoon shows and went swimmingly. Performing for a panel of four judges, each school is given a 45-minute time limit, going from bare stage to bare stage.

Contestants must yell 'clear' after removing the entire set from the stage in order to stop timing. After our show, we watched an average performance of *The Yellow Boat* by White Station High School (by 'average' I mean that we were all moved to tears by a story of a seven-year-old who is diagnosed with AIDS. Personally, I was a mess – it was embarrassing.). We then went out to eat and returned later that evening for what would be one of the most tense moments in



**WIN UGLY:** Alex Floyd (right) was selected to the All-Star cast

the show's history: the award ceremony.

The award for Best Actor overall went to a student at Cordova. Our wonderful cellist, Kang Huh ('15), was disappointed he didn't win Best Actress, but we love him just the same. In addition to these two awards, the All-Star Cast List is a list recognizing the best actors from each school. Medals were given out among the six schools. While the other schools only rendered one or two measly medals, MBA received four All-Star awards recognizing Alex Floyd ('13), Mattison Asher ('13), Alexandra Thornton ('13) and Jess Darnell ('15).

*The Yellow Boat* was selected as Runner-Up, while *The Elephant Man* won the entire state competition. Many thanks to Dr. Rick Seay for directing such a successful show! The cast of *The Elephant Man* will have an encore performance of the 45-minute show next semester before moving onto the Southeastern Theater Conference (SETC) regional competition in March of 2013.

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# ARTIST SPOTLIGHT: *ALEX FLOYD*

## MASTER OF THE STAGE



**JUST ROLE WITH IT:** Alex is an actor with great range, playing parts across a broad spectrum. He has played the physically debilitated (*The Elephant Man*), the dead (*Lucky Stiff*) and even Linus (*You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*).

PARRISH PRESTON//BR

By Lucas Littlejohn  
Entertainment Editor

Every month, I interview a different MBA artist (or musician, performing artist, etc.) to celebrate the incredible talent of our artists on the hill. The subject of this issue's Artist Spotlight is senior Alex Floyd. One of the most, if not the most, decorated thespians in the school, Alex's immense acting skill brings the heat on stage with every persona he assumes. His name has been on the head of every MBA play flyer for the past few years, and that of many Harpeth Hall plays as well. Having been inducted into Totomoi recently (I was honored to have tapped him), he is an exceptionally multidimensional student and an all-around swell guy.

**Bell Ringer:** How long have you been acting / how many plays have you been at MBA?

Alex Floyd: I started doing plays in 5th

grade with Peter Pan at Harding, and I've done 23 plays at MBA and Harpeth Hall.

**BR:** What has been your favorite and least favorite play? (and why)

AF: My favorite play was last year's *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. It was just the best of all worlds, great cast, great show, and some great performances, our best being at the Southeastern Theater Conference last march. My favorite role has been John Merrick in *Elephant Man*. The character was such a physical and intellectual challenge. I loved it. Least favorite show would have to be *Love's Labours Lost*. It was at HH and. I hated my role. It being my first time acting in high school, I was so intimidated by the other actors and terrified by the audience.

**BR:** How have you managed to juggle play practice, auditions, line memorization, rehearsals, school-night productions, etc. with an MBA

curriculum?

AF: It's been tough, but the key has been just utilizing study halls and free periods. It got really bad last year when I had Mock Trial too. I'd got to *Twelfth Night* rehearsal and then *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, and then drive down town for Mock. I'd get home around 9:30 having done absolutely no school work. I assume it's gonna be tough again next semester as I juggle *Elephant Man*, *Amadeus*, mock trial, and college auditions. Line memorization is something that mainly gets accomplished during rehearsals. If I'm not on stage, I'm usually running through my lines.

**BR:** What's your favorite thing about being an actor in general? About being an MBA thespian?

AF: My favorite part of being an actor is spending time with the script and creating my character before I take to the stage. That's where the art is. It's in the process

that goes unseen. The best part about being an MBA thespian is the camaraderie and collaboration. At MBA, we're lucky to have directors who want as much student input and interaction as possible. When you see an MBA show, you see a show that is 90% student produced. We build the sets, design the sound and lights, act - obviously - it's fantastic.

**BR:** What advice would you give MBA students interested in theater?

AF: Just go for it. I've found that the key to success in MBA theater is just confidence. If you just believe in what you are doing on stage then chances are you're going to do well. So if you want to do theater, honestly just jump right in. It's the most welcoming group of guys on campus.

Turn to the Entertainment Section of the next issue for the first Artist Spotlight of 2013!

**The Bell Ringer congratulates Dr. Seay and the MBA Theater Department for another strong showing at the TTA One-Act Competition!**

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# Dikembe Mutombo's four and a half weeks to save the world!

## Your *Bell Ringer* guide to the apocalypse

By Alex Floyd and  
McKay Proctor  
Staff Nostradamuses

This is, at least according to the Mayans, the last *Bell Ringer* ever. The end of the world is coming on December 23, 2012 (Side note: great excuse for not doing your Christmas shopping: "I thought the world was going to end."). We took it upon ourselves to prepare you for the things that Dikembe Mutombo can only hope to defend against. Just kidding. Dikembe Mutombo is going to save us all, but this is just in case he goes all ambivalent on us.

### Zombies

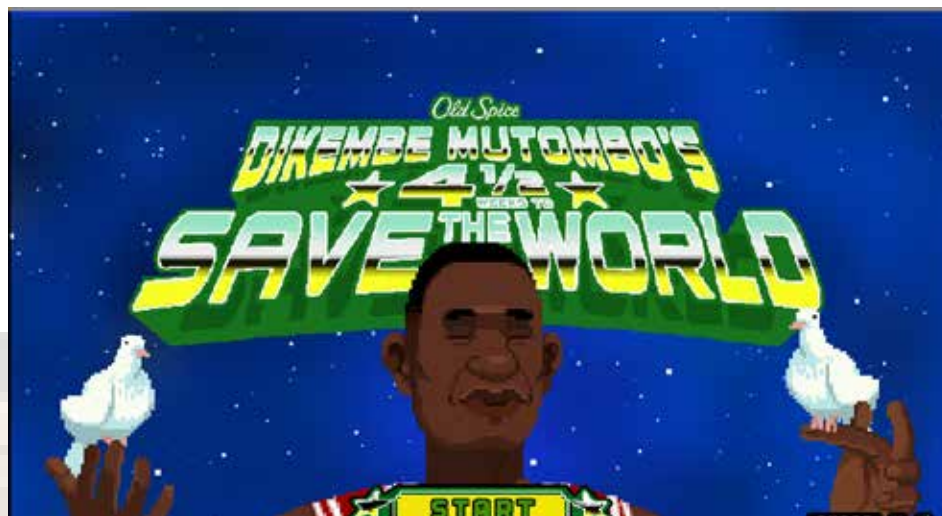
MBA has committed the second biggest of the classic blunders. The most famous is, of course, "Never get involved in a land war in Asia." Slightly less well-known is "Don't be withing a half mile of a hospital when there is a zombie outbreak." The logic is thus: the onset of zombie-ism appears to the untrained eye as a disease. People treat diseases in hospitals. Lots of people bitten by zombies in a hospital eventually become zombies in the hospital, then radiate to all other areas, Hills included.

Assuming the Mayans are not totally accurate, (they were doing math with calculators made out of iguanas and human heads, after all) the scenario may arise where you are at MBA during the outbreak of the coming zombie apocalypse. We will be long gone because we know the signs and have our exit procedure all planned (Suckers!). You, poor soul, are likely ill-equipped to handle the undead Armageddon, but your plan should be simple: get out of town. More specifically, get out of town going North. As far as getting off the campus goes while gathering supplies, I would steal a bicycle (not from Mr. Gillespie), raid the riflery range and the library (yes, the library: pick a good book. It gets lonely out there on the road, man.) and get out of Dodge. No, seriously, get out of the Dodge- you'll be less impeded by traffic on the bike you stole (not from Mr. Gillespie).

Travel light. Contrary to popular belief (I'm looking at you, *The Walking Dead*), banding together with the random strangers you meet is not a wonderful idea. By the time you get to Canada (Yes, Canada. No one lives



**I SAID NO!:** Dikembe saves us from the A-Kimye-clipse



**EVERYTHING IS DEFENSE:** Old Spice says Dikembe's defense might be our only hope, *The Bell Ringer* investigates

there to begin with and the zombies can't survive the cold), anyone you meet will be a real *Survivorman* and you can trust them then. Your best friend on the run will be any and all poetry you have memorized ("Wan that Aprile ..."). That and the zombie you domesticate eventually like at the end of *Shaun of the Dead*.

### All out nuclear holocaust

The majority of our plan of action in this case is exclusively based on *The Book of Eli*, so it's subject to change. I have no idea how anyone could survive a series of nuclear explosions, but I assume it's something like that episode of *The Twilight Zone* when the guy hates his life, but loves

books so he goes into a bank vault which then closes without suffocating him and he survives. (For some reason, despite spending the first 45 minutes of the episode rummaging through abandoned storefronts for useful things, he apparently can't find another pair of glasses in the entire contiguous United States. Weird. Maybe he had a special prescription?)

Assuming you live through the *Dr. Strangelove* scenario, you need to follow the voices in your head. They will lead you to a Bible (which is the last of its kind apparently? And looks like it is from the 1400s? Never understood that part of the plot). Take the Bible and walk west. It helps to have heightened reflexes and an iPod full of Marvin Gaye, but that is not essential. At some point you will come to a watering hole. Mila Kunis will be there. Shoot a bunch of people and take Mila Kunis with you. From there on out, shoot anything that moves and fight people for water, because the atmosphere is fried and rain does not exist. Bond with Mila Kunis. She's a nice lady As long as you can slice open highwaymen with a machete, you should live long enough to

figure out what to do with the Bible.

### Something something Higgs-boson

Though we don't fully understand the God Particle or what it means, there is probably at least one scenario where they all catch the Boson blight and die off like chestnuts. If this Wikipedia summary is not misleading, a bunch of bad stuff will happen. The only real recommendation we have is that you

get your bosons vaccinated and treat them well or else your body will be disintegrated into a trillion pieces of micro particles in space-time.

### Big Red Dawn

Probably not a doomsday scenario, but still a possibility. If we are attacked by Commies (although the name Big Red



**THE ONLY ACCEPTABLE END:** Dikembe is a pretty big *Outkast* fan, so this one is OK by him.

walk around shouting "wolverines" and wait on the guy from *Thor* to show up. Until then, just fend them off with our superior sporting programs, high standard of living and the power of freedom.

### Stankonian Alien Colonization

Our Friends the Mayans were taken down by a foreign power with superior technology, so the people of Earth might be in for the same, but from intergalactic conquistadors instead. Let's call out new alien overlords the Stankonians. When they get here, the Stankonians will seem like any group of green men from the Eastern Atlatia galaxy. Their first album (*Intergalacticinvaderisticufokunkmuzik*) will bring humanity into their fold willingly. Their second album (*ATLiens*) will see them coming into their own. They will then peak with their third program, named for the constellations from which they came (*Aquemini*) and follow a wonderful program of opression named after their home planet that will be a favorite at bachelorette parties and take over our radiowaves (*Stankonia*)

and finish it all off with their most ambitious broadcast yet and their most commercially successful (*Speakerboxx/The Love Below*). In case you haven't picked up on this yet, I just made an Outkast joke.

### Kanye and Kim get married

The maelstrom of paparazzi that would result would probably overreact us all to death. There is just way too much mental instability going on here, not to mention their personalities don't really match up. He's ambitious and artistic, and she's famous for being O.J.'s lawyer's daughter and appearing on *America's Funniest Home Videos*. All we're saying is, the sheer potential for an explosion of media surrounding this couple could possibly derail the Earth. That's how it works, right?

### Mr. Gaither leaves Wallace Hall.

Oh wait...oh no... We're doomed.

### MBA Robotics Club world domination.

Yes, everyone, it's over. MBA has given itself over to robots. We've all seen *I-Robot*. We know the struggle that Will Smith endured in order to save Chicago from robotic take over. Is that really what we want here at our home? *I-Robot 2: Gentleman Scholar Artificial*. The way I see it, it's only a matter of time until the brand spanking new robotics lab by the library turns into home base for an army of destructive automata determined to exterminate our race.

### Mr. Pruitt creates medicine resistant diseases that circulate the world.

This might be the most likely of any end of the world scenarios. 1. Mr. Pruitt is a mad scientist genius. 2. With the amount of students we send abroad each year we can easily spread this disease to the rest of the world. 3. I believe in biology freshman year we actually did this. Just imagine Mr. Pruitt screaming "YOWZA!" atop his throne of world domination. So much puddle stomping. So much puddle stomping.

Well, gentlemen, that's all we got. Now it's your turn to stock up on subpar nonperisable food and crossbow ammunition! Godspeed.



**ZOMBLOCK:** Note that Dikembe aims for the head. Good form, Mr. Mutombo.